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Teachers break off talks, strike set to continue

By HERB KEINON, ARYEH DEAN COHEN and Kim

Schools were expected to remain closed this morning after talks between teachers' representatives and the Treasury broke down around midnight last night.

The chances of schools opening "are near zero," said Avraham Ben-Shabbat, head of the Teachers' Union, after he walked out of a three-hour meeting at the Finance Ministry.

The exception is special education schools catering to the severely disabled, which were expected to open today.

Education Minister Yitzhak

Levy told Channel 1 afterwards that he was headed "immediately" to a meeting with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to ask him to intervene and convene a special cabinet session to resolve the strike.

"I am going to the prime minister to discuss the matter. I will ask the prime minister for greater involvement, including holding a cabinet meeting so the entire cabinet can hear the details of the negotiations and decide," Levy said.

Levy said he thought the differences were bridgeable but suggested that the Finance Ministry wasn't showing enough flexibility.

"We are speaking about gaps which by my proposals can be bridged, while according to the Finance Ministry, they cannot," he added.

The two sides had resumed negotiations at 8 p.m. after reaching an impasse on Monday night, which delayed the opening of the school year yesterday and kept many of the nation's 1.6 million pupils at home.

Teacher representatives alleged they had heard no new proposals and accused the Treasury of being more concerned with a threatened general strike scheduled for tomorrow, than with the teachers' strike.

Despite the breakdown in contacts with the Treasury, teachers representatives held talks into the morning with Education Ministry officials.

Treasury wage director Yossi Kucik said he hoped the teachers unions would "come to their senses and agree to a reasonable wage agreement."

Ben-Shabbat said, however, "We will not return for a wage increase of NIS 70 a month. The teachers will not return on all fours."

Shai Lachman, chairman of the Israel Parents Association, said "We are angry, frustrated and disappointed that the school year was not opened by the teachers. The parents and children have once again become the victims of a dispute that has been going on for over a year."

The last time that a wage dispute delayed the start of school was in 1995, when the term started one day late, the Education Ministry said.

Netanyahu called on the teachers to resolve their wage differences with the Treasury so the school year could get under way.

He called on teachers to follow the example of the government, referring to his proposal to cancel an upcoming 5.5 percent wage rise for senior officials.

Netanyahu acknowledged the dispute relating to compensating teachers for chaperoning school trips, but added: "This did not start with us. This is a distortion that has existed for many years."

"I am willing to solve this and the finance minister is too. But this needs to be spread out over a few years, because a correction to

a problem that existed for years cannot be made overnight."

Ben-Shabbat also accused the Treasury yesterday of trying to use the teachers as an example in its ongoing battle with the Histadrut.

"The Treasury is trying to threaten the other unions, and it is doing so at the expense of the teachers and almost two million pupils who are not going to school today."

"But we are determined and our demands are just, so we have no alternative but to continue the strike."

See TEACHERS, Page 2

Late-night meetings in attempt to avert public-sector strike

By NINA GILBERT and JUDY SIEGEL

Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz and Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman were still meeting after midnight last night in an attempt to make progress on a wage agreement and resolve a dispute over the employment of government workers via manpower companies. If successful, their talks would prevent the start of a general strike tomorrow.

"The talks will continue into the night in another attempt to prevent the launching of a general strike," the Histadrut spokeswoman said last night.

In the first session, which convened at 5 p.m. yesterday, no progress was made, she said. A second meeting began at 10.

"I hope everyone will show responsibility," Neeman said late last night, adding the Treasury would make every effort to prevent a strike.

Peretz, however, noted there were still gaps.

"Unfortunately, the pensioners are still not protected, and I have no news for wage earners. We still have not resolved the disputes," he said.

He added, however, that the labor federation also helped to prevent a strike.

The Histadrut has said it will launch a general strike in the public

sector tomorrow, which will include government corporations and local authorities, if a breakthrough is not achieved.

The Histadrut is demanding an 8% wage rise, while the Treasury has been offering a 1% real increase, saying it will not agree to raise wages beyond inflation. In presenting its demands, the Histadrut noted that senior officials in the public sector are to receive a 5.5% wage increase.

If the strike goes ahead, Kupat Holim Clalit's hospitals will operate according to a reduced Shabbat schedule from Thursday at 7 a.m. to Friday at 7 a.m.

Clalit doctors and nurses will not strike, but their functioning will be limited by the lack of help from technicians, clerks and paramedical and maintenance workers.

According to the Clalit union, staffers who are not nurses and doctors in community clinics will strike, except for those providing dialysis, oncology, fertility and insulin treatments.

In Clalit hospitals, outpatient clinics, ambulatory services, treatment institutes and day treatment centers will be shut down, and operating rooms will handle only emergencies. Hospital wards will have reduced staffs.

A strike committee will be set up by each local union, the Clalit workers said.

'Don't turn back the clock'



Escorted by Russian President Boris Yeltsin, US President Bill Clinton points to art work on the Kremlin ceiling yesterday during his visit to Moscow for a two-day summit. (Reuters)

Clinton tells Yeltsin at summit; NYSE up 3.8%

By STEVE HOLLAND

MOSCOW (Reuters) - US President Bill Clinton challenged Russia yesterday to adopt tough measures to stop its chaotic economic slide and urged Moscow against turning back the clock to the "failed policies of the past."

"Today's financial crisis does not require you to abandon your march toward freedom and free markets," Clinton said in a speech.

In Moscow at a time when Russia's economy is collapsing and its government is in disarray, Clinton hugged 67-year-old Russian President Boris Yeltsin and then heard Yeltsin and Acting Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin pledge they were committed to the path of reform.

As the summit was under way, trading on Wall Street rebounded, with the Dow Jones industrial average surging 288 points, a 3.8 percent gain, after plunging 512 points on Monday in a panic attributed to the Russian economic crisis.

Locally, dealers said they expected the market to remain volatile until world markets stabilize.

The Tel Aviv Stock Exchange closed only 1.76% lower yesterday, despite Wall Street's 6.4% fall on Monday, in what traders described as heavy and volatile trading.

The Maof 25 index decreased to 297.38 after falling by more than 4% in early trading.

The shekel depreciated 0.95% against the dollar to NIS 3.837, while the currency basket went up 1.4% to NIS 4.1274.

In Moscow, US Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott told reporters that Yeltsin and Chernomyrdin described to Clinton "a very complicated and quite contentious political struggle that's going on" over the future of Russia's economic policies.

"It is not over, to put it mildly," Talbott said.

In his speech, Clinton called on Russians to adopt tough fiscal disciplines that would transform their economy into a true market-driven one.

"Given the facts, I do not believe there are any painless solutions and, indeed, an attempt to avoid difficult solutions may only prolong and worsen the present challenges," Clinton told an audience at the Institute for International Relations.

Clinton, himself badly wounded at home over his admission of an "inappropriate" relationship with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky, cautioned Russia

against returning to Communist-era practices at a time when some Russian leaders are suggesting the economy needs more state controls.

"The challenge is to create a new Russia that benefits all the responsible citizens of this country. How do you get there? I do not believe it is by returning to the failed policies of the past," he said.

Clinton brought no new pledges of US assistance for Russia, which won a \$22.6 billion international rescue package in July. Russia received \$4.8b. immediately but soon spent it in a futile attempt to defend the ruble. The release of the rest of the package awaits a renewed Russian commitment to economic reform.

Despite the political chaos, the two sides were able to reach agreements on two items to give a sense of accomplishment for the long-delayed summit between Clinton and Yeltsin.

The deals, to be signed today, include a US-Russian deal to share early warning information on missile launches and a pledge to reduce their plutonium stockpiles.

They also discussed world trouble spots - including Iran, Iraq and the Serbian province of Kosovo.

But Clinton's objective in coming for a visit he debated calling off was to preach a tough-love message about the need for Russia to take the steps needed to create a stable economy.

Saying he came as a friend and was not trying to foist a US agenda on Russia, Clinton outlined a detailed list of measures he said would restore investor confidence in Russia, whose problems have caused stock markets to drop around the world.

Clinton recommended the Russian government take steps to ensure all people pay their fair share of taxes, provide fair treatment for creditors and move against corruption.

Suggestions by some Russian political leaders that the government print money to bail out banks and companies was rejected.

"Printing money to pay the bills and bail out the banks does not help. It causes inflation and ultimately will make the pain worse," Clinton said.

He said he did not want to preach to Russia to adopt American ideals, saying, "This is not an American agenda... These are the imperatives of the global marketplace... and you can see the costs of ignoring them."

Dan Gerstenfeld contributed to this report.

PM urges wage freeze for top gov't workers

By NINA GILBERT

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday proposed a freeze in wage rises for top government salary earners. He plans to set a personal example by forfeiting his upcoming monthly pay rise of NIS 1,574, he said.

He urged teachers, the Histadrut

reduction in the salaries of senior officials in the government," he said.

Netanyahu said he discussed the move with Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon, Knesset House Committee head Raphael Pinhasi and Knesset Finance Committee Chairman Avraham Ravitz, whom he said expressed their support for the move and promised to begin implementing the proposal immediately.

"The procedure itself may be dragged out, but these people showed support and government ministers showed support, and I believe the entire Knesset will also support this move," Netanyahu said. "There is no doubt we will succeed in passing this measure. We ask the teachers, who are now on strike, and the Histadrut and all of the workers organizations to show equal responsibility."

He said wage restraint is crucial to preserving Israel's economic strength in the face of world economic turmoil.

"We are in the midst of a world storm that is shaking up nations," he said. "This crisis is caused by one main reason - many governments have spent money they don't have. They have created enormous deficits. Some of them can't pay salaries to government workers. These government leaders can't receive money from international banks, because they don't have the means to pay."

Opposition calls proposal 'a gimmick'

and other unions to follow suit to try and maintain Israel as "an island of stability in the heart of the international [economic] storm."

The move would mean the cancellation of an upcoming 5.5 percent wage rise, scheduled for October, for senior officials in the government - including ministers, Knesset members, judges, and directors-general.

Netanyahu also proposed that senior officials, after forfeiting the October rise, only receive compensation for inflation once a year in 1999 and 2000.

"This is a very, very significant

reduction in the salaries of senior officials in the government," he said.

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Hizbullah hints it may have long-range Katyusha rockets

By DAVID RUDGE

Hizbullah spiritual leader Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah has claimed that the organization's fighting arm, the Islamic Resistance, has acquired more advanced armaments that put "Israeli infrastructure" within its range.

Fadlallah's comments were seen by some Lebanese observers as indicating that Hizbullah has long-range Katyusha rockets that would be capable of reaching as far south as Acre and even Haifa's bayside suburbs.

Fadlallah, in a recent interview with Lebanon's Orient radio station, which is owned by Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, said, "The resistance has more advanced weapons than at the time of the 1996 [Operation Grapes of Wrath] battles."

"Israeli infrastructure is now in the range of the resistance's weapons," Fadlallah said.

His remarks were apparently in response to questions regarding statements by some politicians here that Israel should hit

Lebanese power stations, bridges and other key points in retaliation for cross-border Hizbullah attacks.

Hizbullah's officials have hinted about this possibility in the past. Security sources, however, stressed that there is no concrete evidence that Hizbullah had acquired such weapons, even though it is known that Iran has manufactured long-range Katyusha rockets.

It is thought, however, that the organization may possess mortars with a bigger bore, which enables them to fire from greater distances.

idea of ministerial responsibility, then in my opinion it should be expressed now with the resignation of these two ministers," Sarid said.

Labor Party secretary-general Ra'anana Cohen yesterday demanded an emergency meeting of the Knesset Economics Committee and the State Control Committee.

Last month was also one of the hottest Augusts in the last 35 years, the meteorolog-

August: A hot and fatal month on the roads

By DAVID RUDGE and Kim

The carnage on the roads continued yesterday, following the announcement that the number of road fatalities in August was the highest ever recorded in a single month.

According to police statistics, 67 people were killed in traffic accidents last month - 10 more than during last August.

Three more people died yesterday, two in an accident involving four vehicles at the

Yehiam junction in western Galilee and another in Ashdod.

The deaths yesterday brought to the number of road deaths for the year to 427.

The statistics prompted Meretz leader Yossi Sarid to call for the transport and internal security ministers to resign. Sarid charged that both ministers had pledged to introduce wide-ranging measures that would cut the number of road deaths.

"If there is any significance in Israel to the

idea of ministerial responsibility, then in my opinion it should be expressed now with the resignation of these two ministers," Sarid said.

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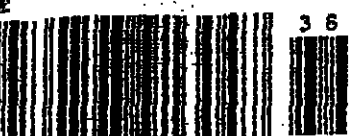
ical service reported yesterday.

At night, temperatures were 3-4 degrees centigrade hotter than average on the coastal plain and 2-3 degrees hotter in the interior areas. During the day, temperatures were 2-3 degrees hotter than average on the coastal plain and 3-4 degrees hotter in the interior.

Temperatures in July also were well above average. The combined period of July and August was among the hottest ever recorded.

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NEWS

in brief

IDF destroys tunnel to Egypt

IDF troops blew up a tunnel running between Israel and Egypt yesterday afternoon. According to IDF officers, the tunnel was used to smuggle weapons and drugs from Egypt into Palestinian Authority-controlled areas.

The Southern Command spokesman said yesterday that it was the fifteenth tunnel discovered in the area this year. *Margot Dudkevitch*

Security guard stabbed in Jerusalem Mall

A security guard was stabbed in the back yesterday at the Jerusalem Mall in Malha, during a fight with three young men, two of whom were lightly hurt, police said. The guard suffered moderate wounds.

The men, in their early 20s, tried to drive into the mall parking lot, but the guard refused to let them in because they would not open their trunk for inspection. A scuffle ensued, during which the guard was stabbed and two of the young men hurt.

The third man fled, police said. *Amy Klein*

Woman dies after being pushed

A Jerusalem woman who was in her seventies died yesterday, shortly after her neighbor pushed her and caused her to fall to the ground, police said. The woman, who suffered from asthma, was arguing with her neighbor over the levels of cleanliness and noise in the building, when the neighbor pushed her to the ground.

Police summoned the neighbor for questioning. The woman's body was transferred to the Abu Kabir Forensic Institute so that the cause of her death could be determined. *Amy Klein*

New tourist attraction opens in Jerusalem

All roads led to Jerusalem last night, as representatives of the country's tourist industry flocked to the capital for the official launching of the Time Elevator, which zooms through the history of the city from the period of David and Solomon to the Six-Day War.

The latest in technological advancement, the Time Elevator is an Israeli entertainment initiative combining education and entertainment. Constructed at an investment of NIS 15 million, it is a project of ITA, which also built the popular Oceanarium in Eilat.

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert - praising the enterprise of ITA partners Ori Yardeni, Danny Rubinstein and Ezra Harel - observed how noteworthy it was that at a time of such economic uncertainty an Israeli company was ready to take a gamble on tourism. *Greer Fay Cashman*

Labor sanctions disrupt courts

Workers in courthouses across the country began sanctions yesterday, refusing to receive the public.

In Haifa, serious disruptions were reported, preventing the filing of suits, holding of urgent deliberations and completion of administrative procedures for carrying out arrests. Releases on bail and orders preventing suspects from leaving the country were also halted.

The courts' summer recess was due to end yesterday. The workers are demanding "the correction of injustices in their salaries" and in their work conditions. *Itim*

Jerusalemites to get Order of Australia awards

Australian Governor General William Deane has authorized Australian Ambassador Ian Wilcock to confer Order of Australia awards upon Dr. Mervyn and Suzanne Doobov and to UNTSO Head Maj.-Gen. Tim Ford. All three are Jerusalem residents. The Doobovs, who are new immigrants, have been singled out for their services to the Jewish community of the Australian Capital Territory.

As far as Wilcock is aware, this is the first time that Order of Australia awards have been conferred in Israel. As a rule, they are conferred in Canberra by the governor general.

The ceremony will be held this evening at the ambassador's residence in Herzliya Pituah. *Greer Fay Cashman*

Suisse presents plan to deport illegal workers

Interior Minister Eli Suissa yesterday presented the interministerial committee on foreign workers with a blueprint for deporting illegal foreign workers. The initial phase of the NIS 14 million plan would cost NIS 640,000 to implement.

Suisse demanded that the government increase the number of deportation orders it issues to 1,000 per month and increase the number of government employees working on the deportations. The committee is to submit its interim report to the cabinet in the next few days. *Itim*

Bank Mizrahi official convicted of fraud

Shimon Zisser, formerly the deputy director-general of Bank Mizrahi's Emda mutual funds and a member of the bank's investment committee, was convicted yesterday in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court of three counts of securities fraud and breach of trust as part of a plea bargain reached with the prosecution.

Between 1989 and 1993, he managed 33 portfolios of friends and relatives for which he charged reduced management fees, betraying the bank's interests. He also bought stocks and then convinced the bank's investment committee to buy the same stocks, which made the value of his purchases rise.

Under the plea bargain, it was agreed that he be jailed for 18 months and pay a NIS 300,000 fine. Judge Amiram Benyamini is to pass sentence in two weeks. *Itim*

FREEZE

Continued from Page 1

"We agreed in the past two years to take brave and painful steps," Netanyahu said. "The main thing we did is to reduce the tremendous budget deficit that we inherited of NIS 15 billion, which accumulated and reached almost 5% of GDP. We cut it in half. It was very difficult and it is still difficult."

"We know that we inherited this tremendous national over-

draft due to irresponsible wage agreements," he said. "But we took all the necessary steps to cut this deficit and to take control of the economy and its financial structure. As a result, we also reduced inflation."

Netanyahu said these moves have had a price - unemployment.

"But there is not unemployment of 20%, 30%, 40%, as there is in those economies in those countries which are facing collapse," he added.

Opposition MKs slam Netanyahu's renouncing of pay rise as a gimmick

By MICHAEL TUDELMAN

The opposition yesterday commended Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's call to renounce large pay hikes for senior public sector officials but criticized him for not doing so several days ago when it was suggested by Labor leader Ehud Barak.

Yisrael Ba'aliya and members of Tsomet and the National Religious Party said they too supported renouncing the pay hike.

However, parliamentarians from both the opposition and coalition noted that the prime minister could not renounce his pay rise

merely by announcing he was doing so, and called his announcement a public relations gimmick.

They said passing up the raise required a Knesset decision and pointed out this was not the first time a politician announced he was passing up the pay hike without actually doing anything of the sort.

Labor said Netanyahu was merely adopting Barak's initiative to freeze the wage hikes some time ago.

Former finance minister

Avraham Shohat, of Labor, rejected Netanyahu's claim that he managed to stabilize and strengthen the economy, despite the large

deficit he had inherited from the Labor government.

"Those are lies and nonsense. We are a nation of a \$17,000 per capita GDP, but not in the last two years. Since this government has been in office the per capita GDP has been reduced and the economy has entered a depression," he said.

Shohat blasted Netanyahu for saying that he and Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman's policy had prevented an economic collapse here like in Russia.

"What drive is this? This is a false presentation, intended to deceive the public," Shohat said. "Ours is a strong western econo-

my, and just as Germany, France, Spain, Sweden, Holland and England live with these turbulences, we live with them too. There is no similarity or connection with Russia's economy."

Shohat stressed that the economy during the Labor government was strong and stable, and created more than half a million jobs, while Netanyahu's government plunged the economy into a deep recession and unprecedented unemployment.

Meretz leader MK Yossi Sarid accused Netanyahu of preaching restraint to low income workers and telling them to renounce their wage demands, while he continues

to get his cigars and baby diapers at the state's expense.

"Now Netanyahu has a new gimmick: he's jumping on the bandwagon of Russia's problems to justify the recession and unemployment in Israel, which are not Yeltsin's fault, but Netanyahu's," Sarid said.

Sarid said Netanyahu was now trying to trample on the workers and teachers "on the backs of the senior wage earners. He failed to take care of the crisis with the teachers for a whole year, and now, instead of dealing with the consequences, he pulls out the bunny - Yeltsin."

PA, Israel blame each other for deadlock in talks

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH, MOHAMMED NAJIB, and MICHAEL TUDELMAN

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat left Gaza yesterday to attend the Non-Aligned Movement's summit in Durban, South Africa amid recriminations with Israel over who is to blame for the deadlock peace efforts.

Arafat told reporters that he planned to update the summit on the peace negotiations and hoped to win their backing. He reiterated that on May 4, 1999 he will declare a Palestinian state.

PA Minister of Local Councils Saeb Erekat said yesterday the Palestinians had prepared an alternative to the current Israeli proposal, which specifies a 13% withdrawal from area C in the West Bank, with 3% of that designated as a nature reserve that will remain under Israeli control. The Palestinians would be able to carry out limited construction.

"We refused the Israeli proposal and prepared an alternative Palestinian proposal and sent it to the US and Israel for consideration," he said.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday blamed Arafat for the deadlock and called on Arafat and Syrian President Hafez Assad to return to

the negotiating table.

"We were very close to significant progress in the negotiations, towards their completion a few days ago. For some reason, there was a certain withdrawal on the Palestinian side," Netanyahu told a meeting of businesspeople in Tel Aviv.

"But I think it's time the Palestinians finish what we began, so that we can bring them and us an agreement of peace with security," Netanyahu said.

Erekat charged that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's declarations about proximity to an agreement are false. "Netanyahu wants the world to think that Israel has agreed to the US proposal and the Palestinians are rejecting it," he said.

Erekat confirmed that there had been meetings between PLC Speaker Ahmed Qurei and Israeli Envoy Yitzhak Molcho recently. "Meetings took place but there is no agreement," he said.

Arafat sent two letters to US President Bill Clinton stating that Netanyahu has not agreed to the 13% withdrawal and demanding that the US present its initiative.

Erekat said. "If Netanyahu is serious he should say one word: Yes, then we will be able to confirm that there is an agreement," he said.

Former envoy says Russia will overcome crisis

By DAVID RUDGE

Although deeply concerned about Russia's present crisis and its potential ramifications, Israel's former ambassador to Russia, Prof. Aliza Shenhar, is somewhat more optimistic than the many prophets of doom.

Shenhar, who served in Russia between 1994 and 1997 and is now president of the Jezreel Valley College, does not minimize the depth of Russia's economic and political imbroglio.

"There is indeed a feeling of chaos and even a sense of some kind of anarchy in the political and economic situation," said Shenhar, who was rector of Haifa University prior to her posting to Russia.

"There's no doubt that there are serious problems. Russia is strapped with enormous external and internal debts."

"During the 70 years of the communist regime, no taxes were levied from the people and this has not changed. It's not even clear if companies pay taxes. Certainly some of the giant monopolies do not."

"The way the government raised money in the past and continues to do so is by selling Russia's vast wealth in terms of minerals, oil, jewels and other natural resources. The fact that the price of oil on

world markets fell, adversely effected the economy and was a contributing factor to the present crisis."

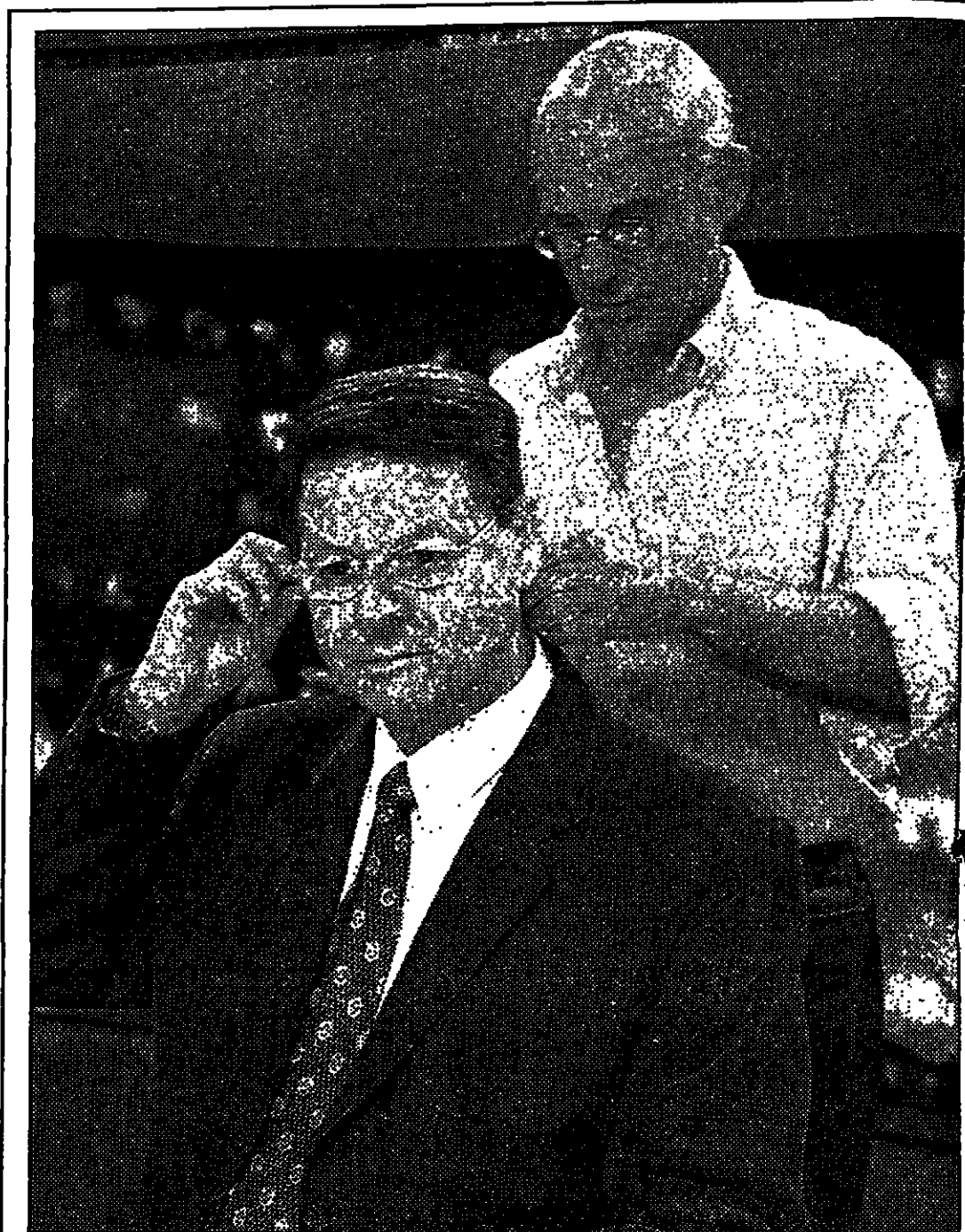
She noted that Russia's crippling debt was one reason the government had been unable to pay coal miners, soldiers and other salaried workers. The devaluation of the ruble had exacerbated the situation.

Nevertheless, Shenhar was optimistic that these problems would be overcome, and political upheavals in the wake of the Duma's emphatic rejection of President Boris Yeltsin's candidate for prime minister would be smoothed over.

"Yeltsin is a fighter and if his health holds up I think he will remain in office to the end of his presidential term in two years' time."

"On the economic front, a lot will depend on what happens to the ruble and how acting Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin arranges his proposed new economic committee, which he is already working on, and how it will handle the economic crisis."

"If the right measures are adopted, I also think that Western countries, which are concerned about the potential consequences of the present crisis and which have a vested interest in seeing a stable Russia, will step in to help and will be followed by the World Bank and the IMF."



Yavin goes back on 'Mabat'

Veteran newscaster Haim Yavin prepares for his return as anchorman of Channel One's Mabat newscast yesterday. Yavin, a founder of the Israel Broadcasting Authority, held the post for nearly thirty years before taking up an offer from Channel 2 last summer. (Brian Hendler)

Hizbullah mortar attack wounds IDF soldier in Lebanon

By DAVID RUDGE

A Givati Brigade soldier was lightly wounded yesterday when Hizbullah gunmen fired mortars at IDF troops in the western sector of the security zone.

The incident sparked heavy exchanges in the area that lasted for several hours. The wounded soldier was treated in the field and later evacuated to Nahariya government hospital suffering from a shrapnel wound in his leg.

The soldiers, including members of the engineering corps, were apparently checking an area north of the IDF's Karkum position for roadside bombs and explosive devices when they came under fire.

Earlier, Hizbullah gunmen fired several rounds of mortars at South Lebanese Army positions in the eastern sector of the security zone,

provoking heavy return fire by SLA gunners.

According to news agency reports, a Lebanese woman was hurt in Mashgara village north of the security zone, apparently as a result of the SLA shelling. The reports said some houses were also damaged.

Military sources, however, said that there was no confirmation that any civilians had been hit in the shelling.

It was partly as a result of seven civilians being wounded in the same village under similar circumstances last week that Hizbullah was given a pretext to fire Katyusha rockets on the Galilee.

Hizbullah yesterday shelled SLA targets in the Jezzine enclave region, saying the long range attacks were in retaliation for the firing at Mashgara village earlier in the day.

Meanwhile, the Grapes of Wrath monitoring group yesterday concluded its deliberations into four complaints each from Israel and Lebanon over breaches of the understandings during last week's heavy fighting.

The IDF spokesman said that the five-nation committee had condemned Hizbullah's rocket attacks on the Galilee last Tuesday, saying it was a particularly serious incident.

The monitoring group called on Lebanon, which is a party to the understandings, to ensure that such attacks would not recur.

The committee, composed of representatives from America, France, Israel, Syria and Lebanon, also denounced widespread incidents of firing into populated areas in Lebanon. It called on Israel to take more effective precautions to prevent any future occurrences.

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SOCIAL & PERSONAL

THE WEEKLY MEETING of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place today at 1:00 p.m. at the YMCA, King David Street. Harry Horowitz, Executive Vice President of the Menachem Begin Foundation, will speak on Unity in Diversity.

AMIT expresses its sincere condolences to the family of

YAFFA GORDON

Honorary National Treasurer

Evelyn Blachor
National President
AMIT, USA

Robin S. Kahn
Chairwoman
Israel Executive Board

Ami Ze'evi
Director-General
AMIT Network

With deep sorrow we mourn
the passing of our beloved mother

RACHEL COHEN

The funeral took place in Jerusalem
on Friday, August 28, 1998 (6 Elul 5758).

Cyril and Mae Cohen
Rita and Albert Douglas
Max and Marilyn Cohen
Sonia and Ivor Plotnikov
Leah Cohen
Grandchildren and great-grandchildren

סוכן מן האהל

NEWSLINE

Raday is a professor of labor law at Hebrew University.

Has Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman changed his negotiating tactics following his failure last year when he was forced to give in to the Histadrut?

It seems not. Not when you hear his comments on the news, in which he said that he doesn't know why the teachers are asking for a salary increase and that if their demands continue, we'll reach a situation like that of Russia's and we won't be able to pay them a salary at all.

This is an extraordinarily dramatic statement. If it's correct, we are in real trouble and it's very hard to see, if it is correct, why they improved the salaries of senior officials and gave special payments to bodies which are connected to parties. If there was a general freeze of everything, including payments to Shas and the settlers, then maybe [his statement could be accepted as correct]. If you are going to have a shut down, you need a freeze that doesn't apply only to the public sector.

If Neeman gives in now will he have to do same when negotiating with other sectors?

How the government manages the general salaries policy is the government's affair. In a country which still has industrial democracy and free collective bargaining which is required by international instruments, it is unreasonable that you can't bargain with any sector. There are constraints on each side.

The question is whether the Finance Minister took [advantage of] the opportunity to conduct collective bargaining with the teachers union during the summer to avoid reaching a situation in which there is an enormous gap at the opening of the school year. One can not accept the idea that there is no possibility of bargaining. But according to Neeman's statements, it sounded that there is no point in bargaining.

Dan Gerstenfeld

How much do teachers make?

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

According to Histadrut Teachers Union officials, teachers' salaries are made up of four main figures: their basic salary, which depends on their level of education and years of experience, plus three other payments.

Taking as an example a teacher with 10 years experience and a BA, the salary broke down as follows: NIS 3,714 base salary; another NIS 119.58 "reinforcement payment," and a NIS 135.51 "framework agreement" payment. To this would be added another 5% of the first two sums, which is paid to homeroom teachers, totaling another NIS 191.50.

In addition, teachers are paid for advanced teacher training courses. The latter depends on how many courses the teachers have taken, but the payment ranges from 0-29.7%, with the average about 10% of the first two payments, or in this case, another NIS 383. The total salary: NIS 4,541 gross.

For a teacher with an MA and 20 years' experience, the base pay is

NIS 4,850.77, meaning the total would be just under NIS 6,000 gross, depending on the number of advanced teacher training courses the teacher had taken.

The base pay for a teacher with a doctorate and 30 years experience is just under NIS 6,000. Kindergarten teachers with five years experience earn a base pay of NIS 2,765 gross.

According to Histadrut Teachers Union chairman Avraham Ben-Shabbat, the figure above is based on 30 hours a week in the primary schools and 24 a week in the junior high and high schools. He said the Treasury offer "translates in real terms to only another NIS 70 a month to these salaries."

While many point out that teachers enjoy long vacations and relatively short hours, teachers themselves note that they are not paid for many hours of preparation that go in to the job.

According to Education Ministry figures, teachers are currently paid NIS 53.61 per day for accompanying school trips requiring them to sleep over.

Sarid calls for urgent debate on teachers' sanctions

By MICHAEL TUDELMAN

Meretz leader MK Yossi Sarid yesterday called for an urgent Knesset debate on the circumstances that led to the delay in the opening of school yesterday.

"Had Education Minister Yitzhak Levy invested in education one-eighth of what he's investing in foiling the pullback from the territories, he would have managed to open the schools today," Sarid said.

An education minister who cannot get the school year to begin on the first day gets an "F," together with the rest of the government, Sarid said.

"The minister was probably so

preoccupied with his plans to strengthen religious studies and to reduce state education, that he didn't have time all summer to conduct serious negotiations with the teachers and reach a positive conclusion," Sarid said.

Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan intends to submit a bill that would forbid a school strike during the first two weeks of the school year. He said the legislation is intended to spare the pupils anguish, but not to harm the teachers' striking privileges.

Eitan was especially critical of the blow to the first-grade children, for whom it was supposed to be a festive day.

School closure angers parents

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

News of the school strike was met with joy and tears from children while it angered parents, upset that strike threats have become an annual ritual — and that this year they became a reality.

While Deputy Minister of Education Moshe Peled called the day a "black day for the Israeli society," there were some who supported the teachers and others who declared that it was unfair to call a strike after teachers had enjoyed a two-month paid summer vacation.

Pupils, readying for the first day of classes and armed with new backpacks containing pencil cases and exercise books, were taught a swift lesson in Israeli politics.

Ten-year-old Yoni Matzliach, from Jerusalem, said he hoped the vacation would continue. He woke up to find a note from his mother, who had to go to work, explaining there was no school.

"I am happy because we have more vacation, don't have to learn, and can sleep late," he said. "The teachers should keep on asking [for more money] and that way our holiday will continue."

Throughout the day, radio reports gave children's responses to the strike and interviewed angry par-

ents, some of whom were forced to forgo work in order to remain at home with their children.

Many agreed that the teachers were entitled to a wage rise, but others questioned the entire educational system, saying it is on the decline and that the majority of teachers are substandard.

For pupils living in Judea and Samaria, however, it was school as usual, with most schools being staffed by volunteers.

Yehudit Tayar, spokeswoman for the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, said such strikes rarely impacted on the settlements.

"Our primary concern is educating our children," said Tayar, adding the policy is also a matter of security since the majority of parents work outside the settlements and children cannot be left to roam around on their own.

The Negev Regional Council decided to oppose the strike and declared its schools open. Shmuel Refman, the head of the council, called on Minister of Education Yitzhak Levy to resign.

"Children waited the entire summer to go to school and then a strike is called. A school year that doesn't open on time is the minister's fault," he said.

Special ed classes resume today

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Special education classes were expected to open this morning after striking for a day, apparently after Histadrut Teachers Union chairman Avraham Ben-Shabbat acceded to an appeal from Union of Local Authorities in Israel Chairman Adi Eldar.

Eldar didn't like the idea of the special-education children being included in the strike, the ULA spokesman said. "We've gone on strike in the past, but have never gotten to such a situation where special education was affected. He spoke with Ben-Shabbat and explained this to him, and Ben-Shabbat assured him that as of tomorrow, special-education classes would resume."

A spokesman said that Ben-Shabbat had only promised to act "if there are significant developments in the negotiations later tonight."

But Education Ministry officials confirmed last night that the special education classes were reopening today.

Israel Parents Association Shai Lachman said he had also been in touch with teachers union officials to ask that special-education classes and regular school programs for kindergartens and first grades be exempted from the strike.

Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eliahu Yishai also criticized the closure of the special-education schools. He urged the education minister to take action to reopen all schools as soon as possible.

"To the best of my knowledge, this is the first time that [a strike effected] special education, which

provides an answer for both retarded and disabled youngsters, and this is very serious. These children need daily attention and special, professional treatment, and every day of a strike seriously harms their development. The teachers and the Education Ministry must be sensitive to these children, who should not be hurt and be the teachers' hostages."

Yated, the organization for children with Down Syndrome, protested the closure of the special-education classes, calling it "a cruel punishment."

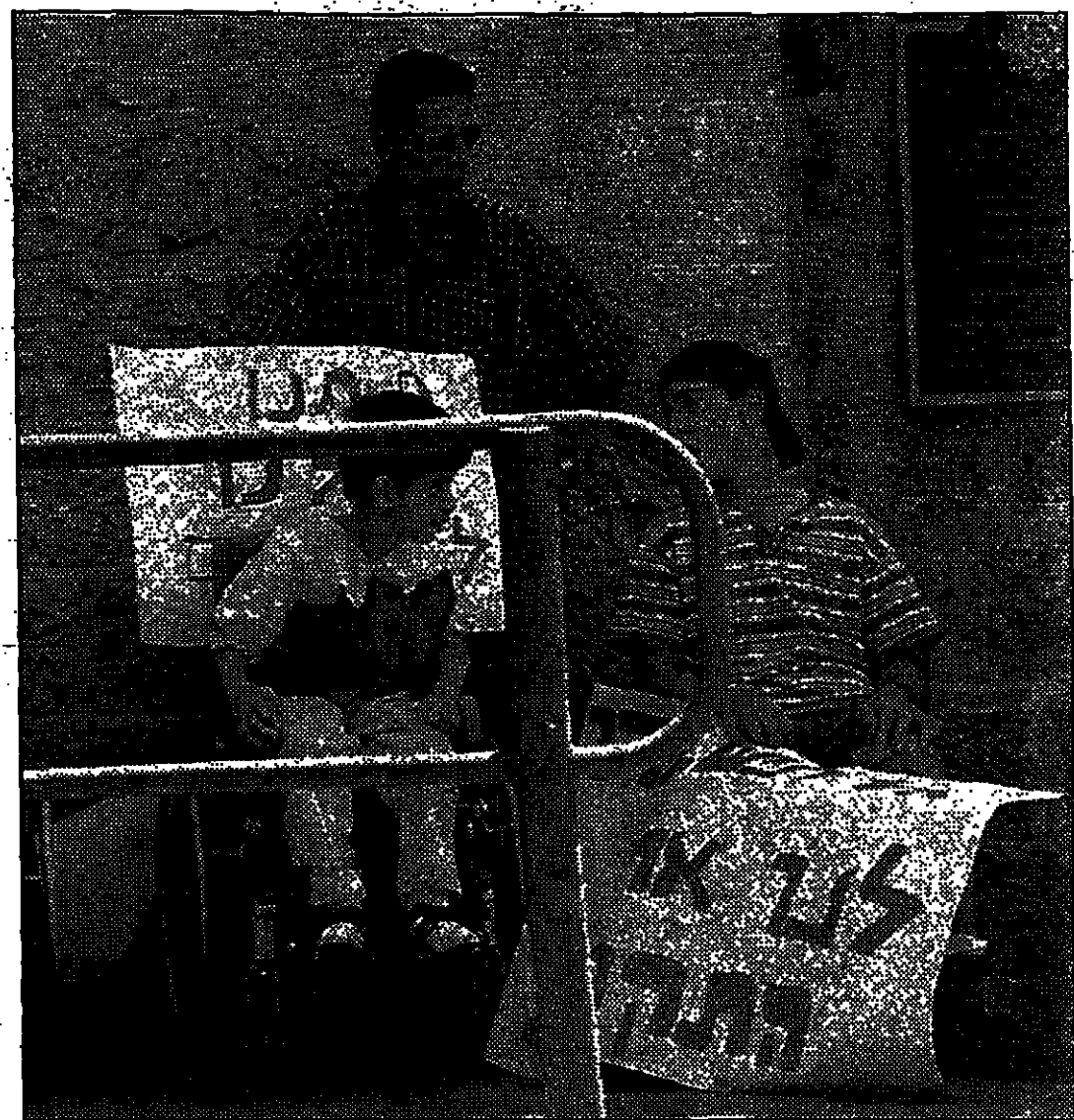
"We strongly protest the violation of the agreement reached several years ago by which special education would be left out of professional struggles and clashes," they wrote in a letter sent to the teachers union leaders and Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz.

"This agreement was always honored until this latest strike. Unlike regular children, disabled youngsters usually cannot go out to play in playgrounds, visit friends or go out for entertainment. Some of them cannot even enjoy television programs because of their disabilities."

"We are shocked by the insensitivity of those who are supposed to teach future generations about consideration for the disabled and handicapped."

Schools in the haredi sector were open yesterday as usual, as were those affiliated with Shas.

According to an Education Ministry spokeswoman, some of the schools in Judea, Samaria and Gaza were open, as were schools in the Ramat Hanegev local council, Kfar Giladi and at Kibbutz Sasa.



Two special education pupils and their father take part in a protest against the teachers' strike, outside Education Ministry headquarters in Jerusalem yesterday. (Flash 90)



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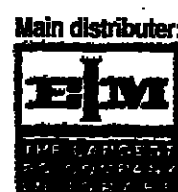


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Settlers oppose IDF plans for fences

Leaders say move will be seen defining borders

By MARGOT DUDKOWITZ

Reports that the IDF informed some 20 communities in Judea and Samaria of plans to fence in the communities drew sharp reactions from settlement leaders yesterday. According to an Army Radio report, OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Moshe Ya'alon, acting on a directive from Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai notified community heads on Sunday that security precautions necessitate fencing in the communities.

The communities include Ma'aleh Adumim and Givat Ze'ev. Settlement leaders declared they

were concerned that the fencing in of communities such as Ma'aleh Adumim and Givat Ze'ev, that are close to Jerusalem, will be conceived as perpetuating the Green Line.

Ma'aleh Adumim Mayor Benny Kashriel said fencing in the communities will not lead to security. "There are better and cheaper ways to obtain security," he said. Meanwhile, Peace Now demanded the eviction of any settlers who actively opposed plans to put fences.

"The refusal of the settlers proves once again that their presence is not for security's sake but purely political," a statement

issued by the movement said.

Yehudit Tayar, spokeswoman for the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, declared fencing in communities is not an effective means for combating terror.

"I understand the IDF's frustration, but it's not going to stop terror by fencing communities in. It would be far more effective if there were a more hard-line policy and terrorists knew that if they attack they will face extradition," she said.

Council director-general Aharon Domb charged that the IDF was attempting to cover itself by demanding such a move.

Hanegbi urges settlers not to break the law

By BAT-SHEVA TSUR

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi expressed hope yesterday that residents of Judea and Samaria would refrain from breaking the law.

"There is tension when it comes to taking political decisions and, to my regret, this tension is accompanied by violence," Hanegbi said in Petah Tikvah. "Violence has to be uprooted, and whoever wants to have an influence on political activities must do so by legal means."

The attorney-general, who has been examining the state of law

and order in the territories is due to present his findings to the government shortly, he said.

The state has, meanwhile, agreed to return to Hanegbi all the legal expenses he incurred in his defense during the Bar-On Affair, the Justice Ministry spokesman confirmed yesterday.

A special committee which decides how much to refund those in public positions who have to defend themselves for action taken in their official capacity awarded Hanegbi NIS 85,000, which was the sum he paid his lawyer, Uri Wagman.

As a result of the police investi-

gation into his role in the affair, Hanegbi was suspected of fraud and breach of trust, and the police recommended that he be brought to trial.

However, the attorney-general and state attorney did not find sufficient evidence to press charges against him.

Earlier, the committee, which is headed by the director-general of the Justice Ministry, awarded Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu NIS 147,300 toward his defense in the affair and a smaller sum to then director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, Avigdor Lieberman.



Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and his wife Kochava tour the historic terra-cotta statues in the ancient capital city of Xi'an in China yesterday.

Mordechai to meet Chinese president today

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

BEIJING - Chinese President Jiang Zemin is scheduled to meet with visiting Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai today in talks which will focus on military aid to Iran and the Middle East peace process.

Defense officials had hoped for the meeting, which was only finalized late last night. Mordechai is expected to seek a Chinese commitment to halt all transfers of technological military aid to Iran, government officials said.

He may even link North Korea's test launch this week of a two-stage medium-range ballistic missile with Iran's similar Shihab 3 by noting that missile proliferation is dangerous to all.

Mordechai may also seek China's aid in locating and returning missing aviator Ron Arad, defense officials said.

The meeting today is unusual, since Jiang does not normally meet with visiting government ministers.

Jiang's decision is apparently a sign that the Chinese see Mordechai as a key figure in Israel's present and future politics.

But so far Mordechai's visit has not been covered by the state-controlled media in China, and Israeli officials here say this reflects Beijing's caution not to upset the balance they have with their closer Arab allies.

Mordechai's Chinese counterpart Chi Haotian will hold an informal meeting with Mordechai before the meeting with Jiang.

However, later both scheduled an official welcoming ceremony, where teams from both sides are to hold working sessions. Mordechai will also tour the Forbidden City and other historical sites today.

Mordechai traveled yesterday to the ancient capital city of Xi'an, where he inspected the

historic terra-cotta statues.

"This one is the general; he has a noble face and a bear belly," the tour guide giggled. "He's a lot like you," Mordechai laughed along.

Between meeting political commissars and regional commanders, he was spending his second day in China playing the tourist. He later visited the national history museum in Xi'an.

Fearing for his safety, the Chinese barred him from taking a walk in the local market. Mordechai's visit to Beijing has been upgraded, as he and his entire entourage are being hosted in the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse - which is usually reserved for heads of state.

Mordechai and his wife Kochava are staying in the same pagoda-style villa that US President Bill Clinton and his wife Hillary stayed in during their visit to China in June.

Knesset Law Committee to discuss early election bill

By BAT-SHEVA TSUR

An unusual alignment of coalition and opposition MKs is due to begin debating in committee today bills calling for the dissolution of the Knesset and early elections, as well as a bill that would revoke the law for the direct election of the prime minister.

On the day before the Knesset's summer recess, the plenum passed the preliminary reading of two bills presented by Meretz whip Haim Oron and Labor MKs Haim Ramon and Ra'anan Cohen, aimed at leading to early elections. In the last-minute Knesset vote, the bills passed by 60-6, with the support of MK Dan Meridor (Likud), three Third Way MKs and the Geshar faction. Most of the coalition boycotted the vote, while Moledest leader Rehavam Ze'evi abstained.

The bills, sent to the Knesset's Law Committee, were expected to be brought to the committee only after the summer recess. But committee chairman Hanan Porat (National Religious Party) agreed to call today's session. However, he added the bill to eliminate the direct election of the prime minister - proposed by MK Uzi Landau

(Likud) and MK Yossi Beilin (Labor) - to today's agenda.

MK Hagai Merom (Labor) charged yesterday that Porat had clumped all the bills together in an attempt to prevent the committee from preparing the dissolution bill for its first reading during the recess. The bill on direct elections is expected to be bogged down in committee for longer.

"[Only] if there is a 13% withdrawal [to which Porat is opposed] will he rush to push it forward," Merom charged. "This is a question of political geography."

For different reasons, Ze'evi said yesterday that he would "recommend to his faction to join in the effort to get early elections. I don't want this government to continue to return parts of the Land of Israel and to pretend to be a nationalist government," he said. "Netanyahu... who was chosen with our votes, cannot be the one to give back the Land of Israel. No way."

Porat was not available for comment yesterday.

The committee debate comes in the wake of renewed calls by President Ezer Weizman for an early dissolution of the Knesset and new elections.

Ministry forms division for Israelis in trouble overseas

By HERB KEINON

Arrested in Russia? Stranded in Singapore? Tired in Timbuktu?

The Israeli traveler in distress, and their worried relatives back home, will have a new address to turn to next week as the Foreign Ministry sets up a division to deal with all those Israelis in various degrees of trouble overseas.

And the troubles vary greatly. Nissim Ben-Sheetrit, deputy director-general of the ministry's administration division, said at a press conference yesterday.

It ranges from stolen traveler's checks, to getting lost in the Brazilian jungle, to sit-

ting in foreign prisons on drug charges.

"The purpose of the division is to coordinate between Israel and the field," Ben-Sheetrit said. "This means dealing with everything from the beginning of the incident until the end, dealing with the embassies, the consulates, the doctors, the airplanes, the families. Everything that could be involved in the matter."

For instance, if a helicopter is needed to pull an over-daring hiker off a peak in Nepal, this new division will take care of it - or at least the logistical aspects of it. The family will be expected to foot the bill later.

But getting families to pay the bills, Ben-Sheetrit said, is no easy task. He said the

ministry is currently involved in a court battle to force the family of a hiker who needed to be extracted from a South American jungle to cough up the NIS 70,000 the ministry paid to helicopter him out.

Up until now, Ben-Sheetrit said, the Foreign Ministry dealt with these types of problems on an ad hoc basis. The new division is meant to centralize matters and improve coordination, he said.

Matti Hacohen, the director of the ministry's consular division, said Israeli embassies and consulates around the world deal with between three to 10 cases a day of travelers facing various problems.

Among those in the most trouble are 250-300 Israelis serving prison sentences abroad for an assortment of crimes ranging from murder to drug-related crimes to robbery and arms smuggling.

The US has the largest number of Israeli prisoners, Hacohen said, followed by the CIS.

Ben-Sheetrit said the ministry is considering a number of new ideas for foreign travelers - including setting up locations in places like Brazil and Thailand where travelers can e-mail their relatives, and the distribution of stickers that would identify the traveler as an Israeli in an attempt to battle the "Ugly Israeli" image.

Federman charged with attempted assaults

By AMY KLEIN and Him

Former Kach activist Noam Federman was indicted yesterday on suspicion of attempting to attack an Arab resident of Hebron and a United States embassy worker.

During proceedings at the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court, the State Attorney's representative, Ada Lev-Ran, requested that Federman be held in custody until the end of his trial. Judge Yehzekel Barkai postponed that decision until today, releasing Federman on house arrest to his mother's home in Jerusalem.

Federman was accused almost a week ago of chasing Mamoun Ja'abri, kicking him in the stomach and then spitting on him.

Federman was also accused of attempting to hit an Arab man with his car during the outbreak in Hebron following the murder of Rabbi Shlomo Ra'an.

According to the indictment, Federman drove his car wildly toward an Arab walking on the other side of Shuhada Street. The man jumped onto the shoulder to avoid being hit.

US embassy worker David Meyurhad witnessed the incident. According to the charge, Federman also tried to hit the embassy worker.

Lev-Ran said: "Recently the attack on Palestinians in Hebron has become an attack on the state and we should act strictly in order to prevent more incidents in the future."

Federman said: "This only shows how the State Attorney's Office, instead of catching the Arabs who killed Rabbi Ra'an, is busy preparing charges against Jews."

Man suspected of 11 sexual attacks

By AMY KLEIN

In Israel, said people often come forward after a rapist is arrested. But only 10% of women who are raped report it, she said.

"Most of the people are afraid of society's reaction," she said. "People tend to blame the victim, how she dressed, what she did," she said.

This case of the serial rapist is unique, she said, because only 15% of rapists are strangers.

It is easier to report - and overcome - a rape by a stranger, Korman said, because there is no element of blame.

Jerusalem police said the rapist, a man calling himself "Yuval," picked up hitchhikers - women in their 20s. He told the women he was a summer camp director and

wanted to hire them as a counselors.

He would then stop in a forest or other secluded place and rape or molest them.

Police traced the rapist because of a note he gave one of the women. All the information on the note was false, except for the street, which exists in only one town in the country.

Police Insp.-Gen. Yehuda Wilk said police will award the three police officers responsible for solving the case a certificate of merit.

"Yuval" is married with a child. His family said he had suffered mental problems since he witnessed the Ben-Yehuda bombing in Jerusalem last year.

No plea bargain in Smyrek case

The attorney of the German man accused of plotting a suicide bombing in Israel resigned yesterday after he failed to reach agreement with the prosecution on a plea bargain.

The attorney, Dan Assan, said his client, Stephan Smyrek, has

not been paying him and that he was not prepared to go through a lengthy trial without a fee.

"As long as there was a chance for a plea bargain, I was prepared to continue to represent Mr. Smyrek. But under the present conditions, I do not feel prepared

to continue," Assan told the Tel Aviv District Court.

Smyrek asked Judge Natan Amit to appoint a public defender. Devora Chen, of the District Attorney's Office, said she preferred a trial to a plea agreement. (AP)

book department

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- Details regarding the languages of the examination will be included in a further announcement.
- Explanatory material related to the examination can be obtained from the Regional Ministry of Health office, and from the board of the examination.

Prof. Joseph Schenker
Chairman of the Examination Board
Pursuant to Israel State Regulations 1988

Ministry of Health

Examination Board for Medical License

for Internship ("Stage")

Announcement

Examination Board: Internship qualification Examination, in accordance with the regulation of the Physicians' Law 1988.

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Prof. Joseph Schenker
Chairman of the Examination Board
Pursuant to Israel State Regulations 1988

סוכנות מידע

New risk of breast cancer found

US scientists identify genetic alteration that seems to affect Ashkenazi women

By JUDY SIEGEL and news agencies

US scientists have identified yet another genetic alteration that seems to raise the risk of breast cancer among Ashkenazi Jewish women.

It's a variant of a gene called APC, which itself raises the risk of familial polyposis, a condition in which multiple polyps in the large intestine can develop into colon cancer.

Dr. Kenneth Offit of the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York and Dr. Lawrence Brody of the US National Human Genome Research Institute carried out two studies on APC variations and published their results in the September issue of *Nature Genetics*.

According to the article, the APC variant has a much smaller impact on increasing the risk for genetically inherited breast cancer

than the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genetic mutations that were discovered in recent years.

But the results of the two new studies on Ashkenazi Jews offer a clue for studying other groups for genes affecting the risk for breast cancer.

Offit said APC appears to raise the lifetime breast cancer risk by about 50 percent for Ashkenazi women in general, giving a woman a 15% lifetime risk instead of a 10% risk.

But since most of the effect seems to come from the BRCA defect, the APC variant is apparently "too weak" to justify mass screening of women for it.

Offit's team, which studied 632 American Jewish women of Eastern European origin who had breast cancer, found that the APC variant appeared in about 10% of them — which is higher than the 6%-7% seen in the general Ashkenazi population. Among

women with a BRCA mutation, the APC gene was found in nearly 18%.

Brody found the APC variation in about 7% of nearly 5,000 healthy Ashkenazi men and women who volunteered for a survey in the Washington, D.C. area. Volunteers with the APC variant, he found, were about 40% more likely to report breast cancer in their first-degree women relatives than the others.

Brody added that the APC variant affects cancers appearing around ages 65 or 70, while BRCA mutations are connected to cancers that show up even before menopause.

Dr. Ephraim Levy-Lahad, head of the genetic oncology lab at Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital and a leading young researcher on cancer-related genes, said APC is probably one of a collection of small changes in the genes that can cause a predisposition to cancer — even though most breast cancers are not inherited.

She would like more work to be done on APC and its apparent link to breast cancer. She stressed that this type of tumor is not more common among Jews, or even Ashkenazi Jews, than other women, but that this ethnic group serves as perfect subjects for such genetic research.

"Since Ashkenazi American Jews are so genetically homogeneous, you don't have to search for a whole lot of mutations," it's as if they were a tribe in deepest Africa. But at the same time, they're also an extremely educated and accessible to scientists, as they live in cities with excellent research centers."

In Friday's *Magazine*: The growing controversy in the US over the "Jewish breast cancer gene."

NEWS

in brief

Tel Aviv beaches reopened

The Health Ministry yesterday opened the four north Tel Aviv beaches that had been closed earlier this week to bathing because of sewage contamination. All Tel Aviv beaches are now safe, the ministry said. However, the Health Ministry closed the Four Seasons Beach in Netanya until further notice because of sabotage against a local pumping station. *Judy Siegel*

Protesters demonstrate outside Amir home

Protesters, holding up signs saying "This is where the prime minister's murderer came from," demonstrated outside the home of Geula Amir yesterday, as parents brought their children to their first day of school at the private nursery she runs at her home in Herzliya.

Geula Amir's son Yigal assassinated prime minister Yitzhak Rabin. Her other son, Haggai, was convicted of conspiring to kill Rabin and attack Palestinians and for the illegal possession, transport and manufacture of weapons. *litm*

Haifa woman raped by intruder

Haifa police are searching for a man who conned a woman into letting him enter her apartment on Monday night and then raped her. The rapist knocked on the apartment door and told the 27-year-old woman, who was alone in the apartment, that he works for a utilities company. As soon as she opened the door, he forced his way in and raped her. *litm*

Committee formed to prepare for 2000

A joint committee to handle the preparations for the year 2000 was established yesterday at a meeting between officials of the Tourism, Foreign and Religious Affairs ministries, Israel 2000 chairman Shlomo Ily, and senior officials of the Catholic Church. The committee, which will include members from the Tourism Ministry, Israel 2000 and the Catholic Church, is the result of ongoing efforts to increase cooperation and dialogue between the government and officials from Christian churches, in advance of the expected arrival of large numbers of visitors to Israel in 2000. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Mekorot to boost water supply in West Bank

Mekorot chairman Doron Gruper and other company officials toured Judea and Samaria yesterday to investigate the water problems in the region and to discuss the projects launched to provide solutions. The government recently allocated NIS 50 million to boost the water supply to the mountain ridge via three different pipelines. These three pipelines, due to be finished by the end of next year, would help meet the area's immediate needs, while also being the first stage in a four-to-six-year project, Gruper said. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Expert: Research needed for diarrhea vaccine

By JUDY SIEGEL and AP

One of the country's leading experts on pediatric infectious diseases recommended that the Health Ministry sponsor epidemiological and cost-benefit studies of rotavirus infections in Israeli babies — now that the world's first vaccine against the leading cause of childhood diarrhea has been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration.

Prof. Ron Dagan of Soroka Hospital in Beersheva told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday that while he doesn't know if giving the vaccine to newborns would be cost effective, "rotavirus is a relevant subject in this country."

According to relatively small studies his hospital has conducted in the South since the '80s, about 15 percent to 20% of all hospitalizations of babies is due to diarrhea and 10% to 20% of them developed the condition from a rotavirus infection, he said.

"While deaths from diarrhea in this country are very rare [perhaps one or two a year], hospitalization for treatment of dehydration is nevertheless quite common and very expensive, as are losses to the economy because parents have to take off work to care for their children," he said.

In developing countries, however, a million babies die each year due to diarrhea caused by the bug.

"It's a very 'democratic' virus," Dagan explained. "It can affect any part of our population. Jews, Arabs, Beduin, the economically disadvantaged and the well off."

The new vaccine, manufactured by Wyeth-Ayerst Laboratories after it was developed over 24 years by Dr. Albert Kapikian of the US National Institutes of Health, "is not a perfect one; there will be better ones. But the impact of rotaviruses and the vaccine should be examined here. So far, no country offers it routinely to babies, but now that it's been proven safe and effective, incidence and cost-benefits should be studied. The price will probably come down, just as vaccines against HIB meningitis and hepatitis B have been drastically reduced."

Called RotaShield, the live vaccine protects against the four viral strains that cause 95% of the world's rotavirus cases, Kapikian said. Studies submitted to the FDA showed it prevented 70% to 90% of severe diarrhea.

Currently it is expensive, selling in the US for \$38 per dose, with three doses given during the first six months of life. It would have to be very cheap if governments were to give it to all babies.

Dr. Paul Slater, the ministry's chief of epidemiology, said that doctors' reporting of rotavirus infection is not mandatory and that most labs that check feces of babies with diarrhea are technically unable to check for viruses; many don't even test for bacteria. Therefore, he said, it's difficult to know how much of an impact the virus has here.



Etti Michaeli hides from the spotlight yesterday during her appearance in Jerusalem Magistrate's Court, where she was remanded for murder. Inset: Michaeli during happier times, when she was known as 'the sheriff of Atarot.' (Flash 90, Brian Henders)

Woman remanded for murder in Atarot

By AMY KLEIN

The murder of Super Drinks factory owner Siman Michal in north Jerusalem on Monday night was part of a premeditated bid to wipe out his entire family, police argued yesterday in the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court.

Judge Raphael Strauss remanded Etti Michaeli, 36, for six days, on suspicion of killing Michal and wounding his two sons and a factory worker.

According to police investigator Yoram Sa'ar, for the last few months Michaeli and Michal argued about a parking lot between the factory and a garage Michaeli owned, located near the Atarot airport.

During the hearing, Michaeli indicated that the dispute between her and Michal went back six years.

After a private conversation between the two on Monday night, police said, Michaeli fired twice at Michal, who died on the spot. Michaeli, 62, father of seven children, was buried yesterday in Jerusalem.

She also shot Rami Michal, 42, who is in satisfactory condition at Hadassah-University Hospital at Mount Scopus, and Oren Michal, 27, and Orit Tzabari, 28, who

both underwent operations at Hadassah-University Hospital at Ein Karem.

Sa'ar said police believe the suspect "planned the murder and apparently intended to kill the whole family." After the murder, they found an extra cartridge and additional bullets in her bag.

Michaeli's lawyer, Yair Gaulan, argued that his client went "temporarily insane" after her conversation with Michal on Monday night. "I don't think she planned this and I think it's important to investigate her mental state during and after the incident," he said.

Police had not questioned Michaeli because she was in shock, crying and heaving all night.

Michaeli was examined at the Talbieh psychiatric hospital after the incident, and doctors determined Michaeli could remain in jail, but would need further evaluation.

Michaeli was composed in the courtroom and was able to talk, whispering to her lawyer.

Gaulan asked the court that she be taken to a psychiatric hospital.

Judge Raphael Strauss denied his request and remanded Michaeli for six days, but

ordered additional psychiatric treatment. The court would reevaluate her remand after the treatment, Strauss said.

On the night of the murder, police said, Michaeli met with Michal at the factory. Oren, who sat with them for some time, told police the conversation was friendly.

After Oren left the room, his father called on the intercom and asked him to send a worker to drive Michaeli home. The worker heard shots from the room and ran to the car and told Oren they should drive away.

But Michaeli came out and fired at the car, wounding Oren and Tzabari. Two Arab workers in the back seat were unharmed.

According to the testimony, Michaeli returned to the factory and shot Rami in the leg. Rami jumped her, knocking down her gun.

Michaeli was known as "The Sheriff of Atarot." She is a member of the local security committee, and her gun was licensed. Police said she had fallen on hard times and was about to go bankrupt.

A friend of the Michal family said there was no financial dispute but that Michaeli wanted to buy a part of the factory. When Michal refused, he said, she shot him.

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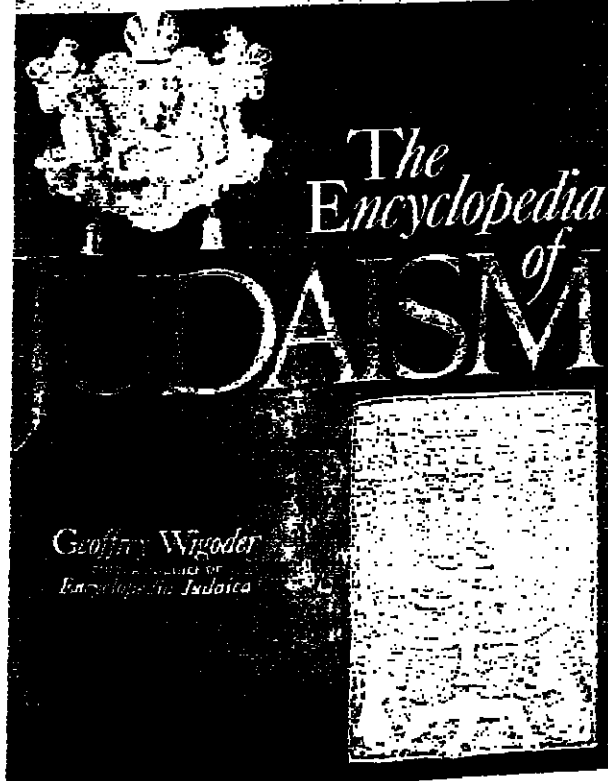
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Hillary Clinton, in first comments since Lewinsky admission: 'I'm getting along fine'

By MAURA REYNOLDS

MOSCOW (AP) — Hillary Rodham Clinton, making her first public appearance since her husband admitted an inappropriate relationship with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky, had tea with Russian businesswomen yesterday and gave a brief, firm response when asked how she's been.

"I've been getting along fine," the first lady said to journalists, emphasizing "fine" with a nod of her head.

The first lady appeared jet-lagged but otherwise happy to be hobnobbing about Moscow with Naina Yeltsin, wife of Russian leader Boris Yeltsin.

The two toured a private women's clothing factory and then took part in a discussion with women owners of small businesses before setting off for a tour of the Tretyakov Gallery, one of Moscow's premier art museums.

Clinton walked slowly through the brightly lit factory floor, admiring designs hanging on dress models and watching the blue-aproned women stitch and iron.

"It's a very nice work environment," she said.

The visit was designed to high-

light the work of women business owners.

In addition to the regular trials facing entrepreneurs, women also must battle the sexism which is said to be pervasive in Russian society.

"It's a pity that so many of our business owners are men," Naina Yeltsin said, noting that only 18 percent of Russian businesses are owned by women.

"Men love to be in charge. I think that's bad."

The owner, Tatyana Nedzvetskaya, said it was a tremendous honor and surprise that Clinton chose to visit her factory.

And she was frank about the



Hillary Clinton

cost Russia's current crisis could have on her business — increased prices for fabric, maybe even

some layoffs.

"We'll hold out until the last minute, of course," she said, but expressed optimism that the hardship may not come to that. "We have to smile and put up with it."

Nedzvetskaya said she was struck by Clinton's openness and intelligence, and said it never occurred to her to bring up the controversy surrounding US President Bill Clinton's relationship with Lewinsky.

"What goes on behind the bedroom doors is nobody else's business," she said.

"If you start asking that kind of question, you have fascism, not democracy."

Zhirinovsky to Bill: Stay home, wed Monica

MOSCOW (Reuters) — On the eve of a long-awaited Russia-US summit, nationalist deputy Vladimir Zhirinovsky told Russia's State Duma lower house that US President Bill Clinton should stay at home and marry Monica Lewinsky.

While his fellow-deputies minds were on Russia's economic and political crisis, Zhirinovsky advised the American president to

leave his wife for Lewinsky, a former White House intern with whom he has admitted to having had inappropriate relations.

"A visit by President Clinton today is untimely, especially considering his recent moral scandal," Zhirinovsky said in a speech during hearings on confirmation of Acting Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin in the Duma. "We, as individuals with high moral

character, would prefer not to meet a person who still can't sort out his relationship with his secretary," he added.

Zhirinovsky has displayed his own moral character by among other things beating a female deputy on the floor of parliament, using his face to sell Zhirinovskaya Vodka and making a film in which he covets with naked women.

Angry Japan plans measures against N. Korea for firing missile

TOKYO (Reuters) — An outraged Japan said yesterday it would break off diplomatic talks with North Korea and refuse to give any food aid to the Stalinist state after Pyongyang test-launched a new long-range missile over Japanese territory.

The latest-generation missile, which officials said yesterday contained three separate stages, was launched Monday afternoon.

The final stage landed in the Pacific Ocean after flying over northern Japan, clearly demonstrating North Korea's ability to strike at any major Japanese city.

The Defense Agency dispatched ships to the area in hopes of recovering debris to give scientists a better idea of the missile's capability.

"The public has a high degree

of anxiety, and I am extremely concerned," Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi was quoted by the top government spokesman as saying.

"If the firing was intentional, it's quite fair to say that a war could have broken out," said Yoshiro Mori, secretary-general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

After Obuchi met with senior cabinet officials, the government said Japan would refuse any food aid requests to help the North Koreans after three years of drought and floods have created widespread shortages.

It also would suspend aid for a nuclear power station meant to help North Korea develop energy supplies and end talks aimed at normalizing diplomatic relations.

"We had been prepared to

engage in talks to normalize bilateral relations unconditionally, but we will change this policy," the government said in a statement. "Depending on future developments, the government is ready to consider further measures."

Japan said it would seek to raise the issue in some fashion at the opening of the UN General Assembly later this month.

China, a key player in North Korean affairs, meanwhile called for negotiations by all sides to ease tensions "and safeguard peace and stability on the Korean peninsula."

South Korean Defense Ministry officials said the missile was a Taepo Dong 1, a newer version of the medium-range Rodong 1, which was test launched in 1993, with a range of 1,900 kilometers.

Rebels denied safe passage in Congo

KINSHASA, Congo (AP) — Government-allied troops are blocking a group of rebel fighters trying to flee western Congo, a government official said yesterday.

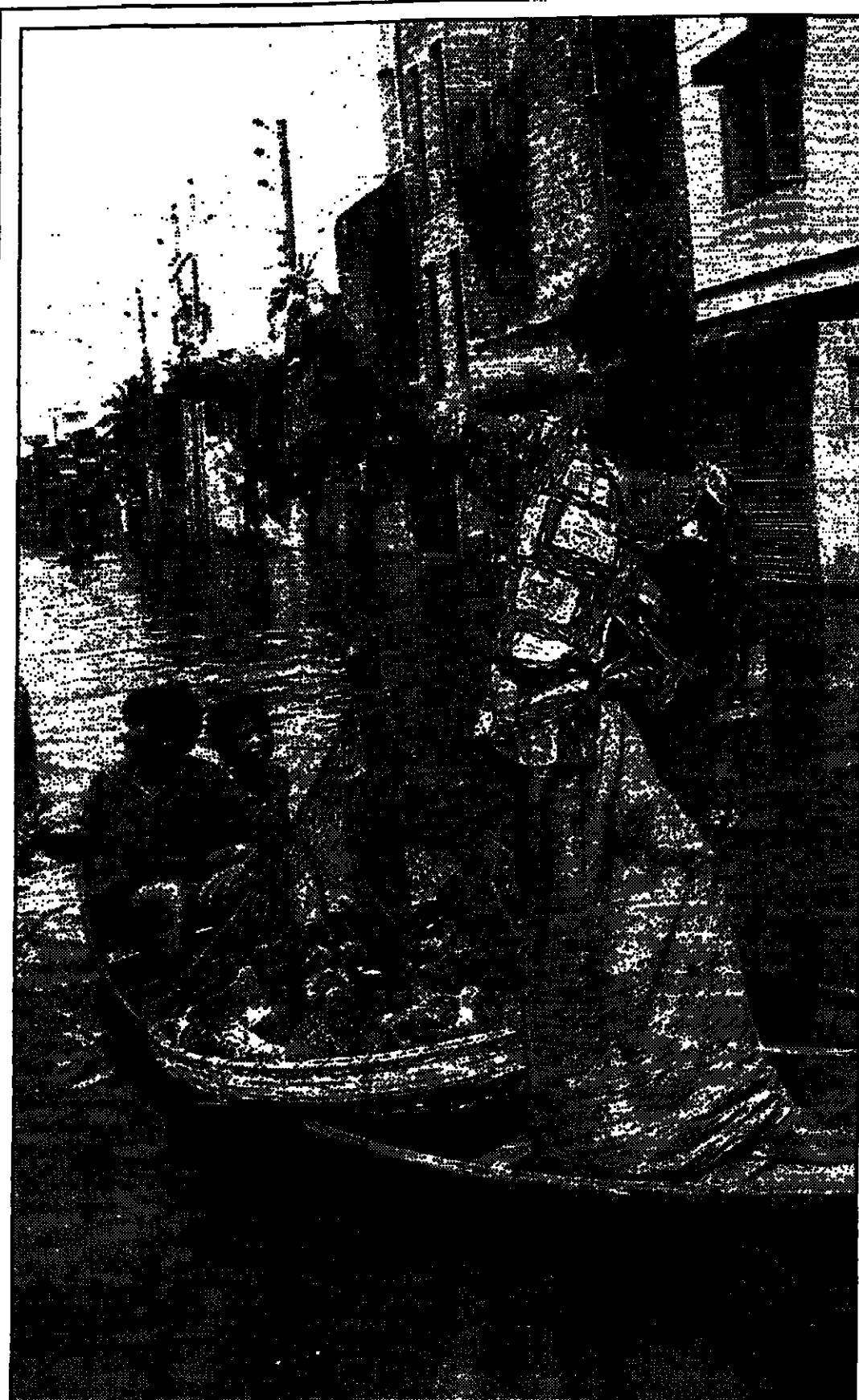
While a recent government offensive has largely forced rebels to abandon their positions in the west, they still control several key cities in eastern Congo and have vowed to press on with their fight to topple President Laurent Kabila.

The unspecified number of rebels holed up near the town of Songololo, about 250 kilometers southwest of the capital, Kinshasa, "are effectively considered prisoners of war," Deputy Interior Minister Faustin Munele said on state radio.

"They will not be given safe passage until all Rwanda and Uganda forces withdraw from the east," he said.

Both the government and the rebels have relied on foreign support during their month-long war. The government has received military help from Zimbabwe and Angola, while accusing Rwanda and Uganda of invading the eastern border and masterminding the rebel campaign.

The rebels lost their last strongholds in western Congo over the weekend when Angolan troops marched into the river port town of Matadi.



A salesman floats through Dhaka selling chickens yesterday. Dhaka, along with two-thirds of Bangladesh, is covered by flood water. (AP)

Bangladesh seeks emergency flood aid

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — Bangladesh is seeking emergency aid to help it recover from raging floodwaters that have submerged much of the nation, killed 600 people and left hundreds of thousands without shelter, officials said yesterday.

Finance Minister Shah Mohammed Kibria repeated his request to neighboring nations and Islamic countries for immediate help.

He said the expected failure of the winter crops would

result in a serious food shortage.

About two-thirds of Bangladesh has been submerged, wiping out rice paddies.

The ministry says Bangladesh needs \$379 million in aid — far beyond the \$65m. pledged by foreign donors and relief agencies.

Officials say 30 million of the nation's 120 million people have been affected by the floods — most of Bangladesh's population lives outside flood-

prone areas. At least 600 people have either drowned or been killed by collapsing homes, the Finance Ministry said yesterday.

Torrential rain in the Himalayas since July has caused rivers to swell and burst their embankments, resulting in the longest-lasting floods in memory.

Bangladesh, a low-lying delta nation, is battered by floods and cyclones that kill hundreds of people every year.

UN Rwanda tribunal to issue first ruling on genocide

ARUSHA, Tanzania (AP) — In the first judgment by an international court on genocide, a UN tribunal pledged to deliver a verdict today in the 1994 slaughter of more than 500,000 Tutsis in Rwanda.

Jean-Paul Akayesu, a former mayor of the central village of Taba, has maintained his innocence on 15 counts of genocide, crimes against humanity, torture and rape. His trial began January 9, 1997.

Defense lawyer Nicholas Taingaye, at closing arguments in March, maintained his client's innocence and said the former teacher should be acquitted of charges he ordered the killings of 2,000 people because "a wrongful

conviction would lend credence to the tribunal's detractors."

Prosecutor Pierre Prosper countered that Akayesu, born in 1953, knew of crimes against Tutsis, "and at times, was present during their commission, but failed to prevent them, and actually aided and abetted their commission."

On Friday, the court — formally known as the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda — was scheduled to sentence the prime minister, who led Rwanda's government during the 1994 genocide.

Jean Kambanda pleaded guilty May 1 and promised to testify against other alleged ringleaders of the slaughter.

The UN said Kambanda was the first ever to plead guilty to genocide charges before an international tribunal, and the judgment on Akayesu will be the first for genocide by an international court under a 1948 treaty. It also will be the tribunal's first verdict since it was set up in November 1994.

All those accused in the Nuremberg trials pleaded innocent to charges, including murder and extermination.

Rwandan Hutu extremists plotted the genocide carried out for 90 days beginning April 7, 1994, mostly by peasants who used machetes or clubs studded with nails to brutally kill their neighbors.

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Out of step over Harlem march

Even members of the black community are concerned about Sunday's Million Youth March in Harlem, which New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani tried but failed to prevent

By JOHN J. GOLDMAN

NEW YORK — It is one of the most controversial rallies in recent New York City history, pitting Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani against the protest's militant organizers — with many Harlem residents complaining they are caught in the middle.

Orchestrated by Khalid Abdul Muhammad, a black leader with such strong views that he was dismissed from the Nation of Islam for his racist remarks about Jews and Pope John Paul II, the Million Youth March is scheduled to take place on Malcolm X Boulevard in the heart of Harlem.

From the outset, the Giuliani administration has viewed the demonstration, scheduled for Saturday, with suspicion.

And after negotiations for a city permit proved both fruitless and bitter, positions quickly hardened. The mayor denounced the event as a "hate march," prompting the group's attorney, Malik Z. Shabazz, to call Giuliani "belligerent, hostile, antagonistic and prejudiced."

Unhappily caught up in the debate are some of Harlem's most prominent leaders who are trying to ensure that the demonstration does not become violent.

"We feel caught in a political firestorm," said state Sen. David A. Paterson. "Everyone is talking about public safety."

"It is a hot potato, a problem," Paterson lamented. "It is hard to get a clear reading on the situation."

Muhammad had pledged to hold the rally — now expected to draw about 170,000 people — with or without a permit.

Meanwhile, a rival and perhaps much bigger rally, also designed to attract black youth, is scheduled for Atlanta at the same time. Its organizing coalition includes the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Nation of Islam and the Rev. Jesse Jackson's Rainbow/PUSH coalition.

The sponsors of the Southern rally believe its broader base of organizational support will produce a much larger turnout than the New York event. But that is of little comfort to police and Harlem politicians who look warily at the rhetoric and relative inexperience of the New York organizers, who have urged members of youth gangs with a history of violence to attend.

Both rallies are an outgrowth of the 1995 Million Man March in Washington organized by Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan. It

stressed to black men the importance of family and societal responsibility.

Organizers say the themes of the Harlem demonstration will go much further than Farrakhan's Washington message and will include calls for the freeing of political prisoners and reparations for the descendants of slaves.

In a decision highly critical of the Giuliani administration's attempts to deny organizers a permit, a federal judge last week ordered that the march be allowed to take place, ruling city efforts to block the event violated the First Amendment.

"The Supreme Court has made it clear the loss of First Amendment freedoms even for a short time is irreparable harm," Federal District Court Judge Lewis A. Kaplan lectured lawyers for the city.

"This court does not condone lawless action," Kaplan said. "This controversy takes place against a backdrop of overheated rhetoric... Malcolm X Boulevard, like any other street, is a traditional First Amendment forum for the exercise of constitutional rights."

Concluding an all-day hearing, the judge said city permit procedures in the case of the march were both "breathtaking in their

lack of standards" and a "virtual prescription for unconstitutional decision-making."

"The city overreacted on this one," he added. "I conclude the city's action is unconstitutional as applied. The right of free speech is guaranteed to every citizen."

Lawyers for the city said they would appeal, with a panel of judges set to hear their arguments Tuesday.

A major issue worrying some political leaders and city officials is the timing. Permits for another 108 events in Harlem have been issued for Saturday.

Appearing before Kaplan, police officials testified that it would be difficult to muster the 6,000 officers needed to handle the march — an argument that drew little sympathy from the judge.

"The city is equal to the task," Kaplan said.

The demonstration is not scheduled to end until 7 p.m., leaving little time for crowds to disperse before darkness.

"That could pose a problem after the sun goes down, and that is in addition to the bad faith and inflammatory rhetoric," said Paterson. "These people don't know how to run a rally."

So far, the rally has received little publicity in Harlem. The size of

the crowd also could be reduced because some rap artists promised by the promoters may not attend, according to Paterson, who said he surveyed record companies.

Although march leaders drastically scaled down the size of the expected crowd, in their arguments against the demonstration, officials repeatedly cited the original figure of 1 million people — prompting Kaplan to remark: "I frankly don't think there is any credibility in any of these crowd estimates."

But the march has drawn at least one significant supporter: The Rev. Calvin O. Butts III, a prominent minister with a large congregation in Harlem, gave his blessing to the event, but not to Muhammad.

It also has drawn a measure of neighborhood apprehension.

"It has certainly been most controversial," said Melba Butler, executive director of the Harlem-Dowling West Side Center for Children and Family Services. "I am concerned about the manner in which the march has been organized, the absence of involvement of community leaders."

"I pray intensely that as it moves forward, it will be safe for young people and community residents." (Los Angeles Times)

Nanny trial postponed

Australian nanny Louise Sullivan leaving a pre-trial hearing yesterday in London. Sullivan, 26, denied murdering a six-month-old baby in her care. The trial has been rescheduled for January. (AP)

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James Woods (here seen in "True Believer") and Dustin ("All the President's Men") Hoffman both display a healthy cynicism about the Oscars extravaganza.

Channel 1 pokes fun at the Oscars

By BARRY DAVIS

How many people throughout the world wait with bated breath as the Oscars approach? Our allegiances to a particular movie or star grow and grow until we are unshakably convinced that the 5,000 members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences couldn't possibly overlook our own personal choice for the coveted awards.

"Oscar Day/Oscar Night," the first episode of the BBC's six-part *The Entertainment Biz* (Channel 1, 9:30 p.m. tonight) puts all the glamour and glitz into perspective as it looks behind the scenes. While giving an industry, said to be worth in excess of \$70 billion worldwide, its dues, the narrator provides the interviewees with ample opportunity to stick their

tongues out at the all-powerful Hollywood machine.

"It's a thing, that's what it is," exclaims Dustin Hoffman while struggling to find an epithet worthy of the gargantuan awards ceremony which, he tells us, has grown from an intimate get-together to the monster it is today.

"Oscar Day/Oscar Night" leaves no camera angle uncovered. Seemingly anyone who has anything at all to do with the awards ceremony has their say. We are told that a whole host of satellite industries - from hair styling to flower arranging, and jewelry design to desktop publishing - have flourished in the glittering wake of The Great Event.

A stretch limo chauffeur claims to hate the whole thing, but is just as excited as his well-heeled clients when his gleaming chariot

glides silently to the very edge of the red carpet outside the Shrine Auditorium. Fashion designers have exclusive contracts with all the major stars who - as if they couldn't afford it - get to keep their outfits. "Bribery is not uncommon," says one glad rags outfitter.

And we are party to the insight gained by the peripheral professionals regarding their famous clients' tastes. "James Woods likes very strong lilies," says a florist-to-the-stars. Meanwhile, a provider of tuxedos unequivocally announces that "Tom (presumably Mr. Cruise) is, I believe, a single-breasted, tuxedo-wearing, free-flowing, natural-shouldered individual."

The tongue-in-cheek view of America's number one export industry is given even more cre-

dence by the portrayal of the media as not only a pawn in the mighty hands of Hollywood moguls but also as a slave unto itself. As cameramen and presenters jostle for prime position, as they wade through a sea of power cables and their fellow professionals' well-honed and well-clad elbows prior to the arrival of the kings and queens of the big screen, they are reduced to filling precious air time by interviewing themselves.

"Media covering media covering media," one press interviewee puts it, while another, decked out in his finest off-the-peg rented tux rather than his habitual anorak, soberly bemoans his manipulation by Hollywood.

But, surely, where would all this hullabaloo be without the ones that really matter - the fans. The

poor plebs, just dying to get even the briefest of peeks at their idols, not only have to camp out for three days and nights, they are told what they can and cannot do and warned that unruly behavior will result in their immediate ejection. They are shown being instructed on how to "spontaneously" cheer the stars as they clutch their \$39.99 pocket cameras to their heaving breast.

One suspects that the liberal amount of footage devoted to actors like Hoffman and James Woods, who display a healthy cynicism of the Oscar extravaganza, reflects the producers' own attitude to the movie industry's most glittering event of the year. As members of the media themselves, surely they could not be poking fun at their own profession. Or could they...

Time to bring curtain down on Three Tenors

CLASSIC DISCS

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Eight years ago Zubin Mehta had the time of his life - satisfying both his passion for opera and his love of soccer.

It was on the eve of the 1990 World Cup final in Rome, in the majestic Caracalla open-air theater. The music director of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra was leading the world's three greatest tenors - Luciano Pavarotti, Placido Domingo and Jose Carreras.

All four are avid soccer fans, in Italy for the World Cup finals. They agreed to give a one-time performance to mark the occasion. It sounded like the perfect combination for a great outdoor concert, and it was.

Each tenor sang some of his popular arias. All were in top form and there was no rivalry on stage or off - the result was spectacular. The concert's crown jewel was a final medley sung by the three in tandem. It was breathtaking, gorgeous and fun.

Still, no one thought the concert would be a hit, least of all Mehta and the singers. Mehta recalled that the four did not even put a royalty clause in the contract for the disc and video made on the occasion.

"We never dreamed it would turn into such a success," he said. "The first Three Tenors concert made a huge profit for the organizers and the record company [Decca]. By the time we reached the second Three Tenors concert we made sure that we would have our share in the profits as well."

In the four years that passed between the Rome finals and the Los Angeles World Cup, Pavarotti, Domingo and Carreras sang

together on more than a few occasions. And although Carreras was appearing very little and Pavarotti was minimizing his performances, the three tenors sold millions of expensive tickets in stadiums all over the world.

These were concerts for the masses, but not for the poor. This was not the Metropolitan Opera performing free for thousands of New Yorkers. This had big money potential. Tickets to the Three Tenors concerts have always run very high.

Mehta recalls that while the original Three Tenors concert was great fun, the second get-together was a much more controlled and less spontaneous affair. He did not join them in the various world tours between the two World Cups.

But in 1994, Mehta did not even dream of giving away an opportunity for a show in his home town, the city of angels.

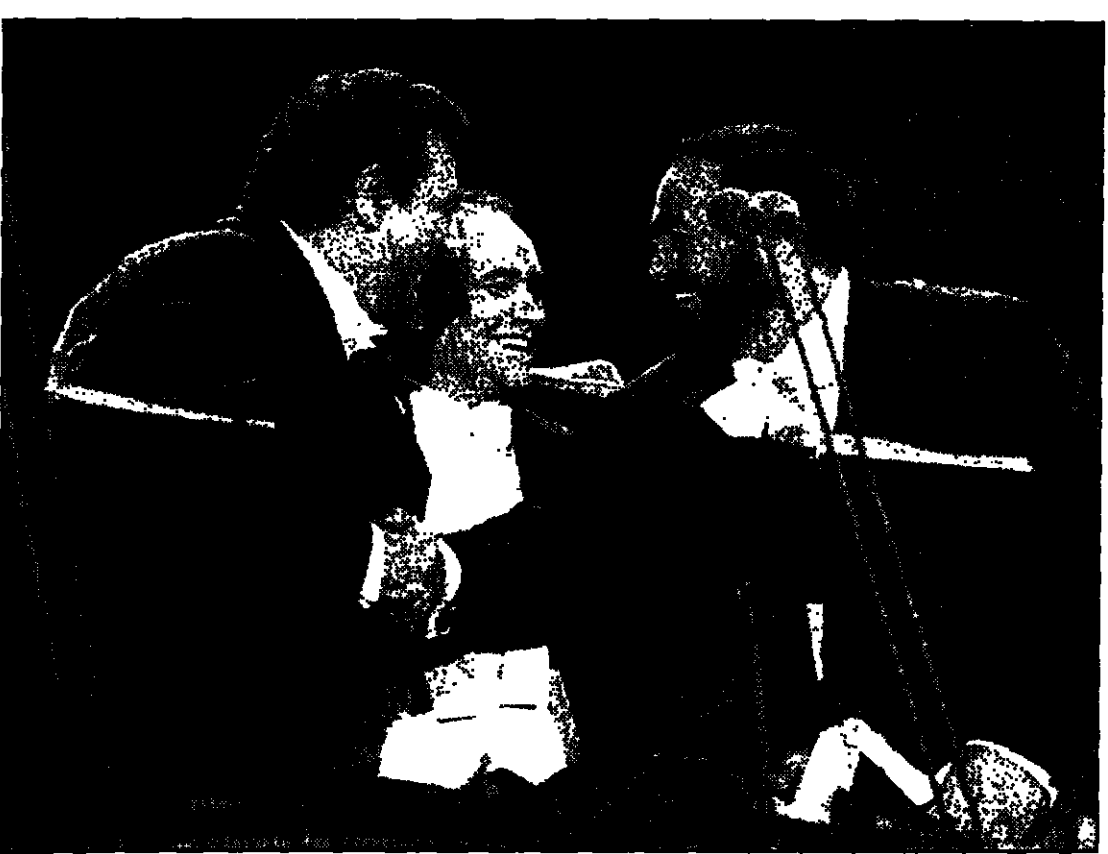
This time contracts were signed, tickets were much more expensive and the concert was sold out. But the result, as entertaining as it was, was less spectacular.

"The program was decided by the Americans and it had more numbers from Broadway musicals and American tunes than we thought necessary. It was still great fun but it was very different from what we established four years earlier," Mehta explained.

The concert at Dodger Stadium was a huge show, the kind only Americans can pull off. Yet the disc and video did not sell as well as the first one, some of that original glitz and flair was missing.

Even after 1994, the three tenors continued to do occasional joint concerts, established by the two World Cup concerts as the leading opera stars in the world.

In France '98, the three tenors got together for what would probably be their final concert.



From left: Placido Domingo, Jose Carreras and Luciano Pavarotti in Los Angeles in 1994. (File photo)

Unfortunately, Mehta was not available (he was busy in his new opera house in Munich) and James Levine, the music director of the Metropolitan Opera, replaced him.

The concert took place outdoors, with the majestic Eiffel Tower in the background. Thousands attended but the concert was so boring that it was embarrassing. The resulting disc, which is now out (*The 3 Tenors Paris 1988: The Concert of the Century Recorded Live*, Decca 460 500-2) just emphasized the fact that it was a huge flop.

The program was uninteresting. It included a medley of almost identical traditional songs, folk songs, French chansons, Neapolitan songs and others. There were no real opera arias, nothing to show off the vocal ability of these tenors, who, believe it or not, are beginning to fade.

So, suited to an unexciting program, a great opera conductor who smiled a lot but failed to ignite the show like Mehta, and three tenors in obvious decline, what was there to enjoy? Not much.

The first Three Tenors disc is still an international best seller. Its spontaneity will always be a winner.

The newest album, on the other hand, is mere testimony to the fact that Pavarotti and Carreras are far beyond their prime, that Domingo remains the greatest tenor on Earth, and that the Three Tenors concert in Paris was an affair probably everyone wants to forget.

If you don't have the first Three Tenors disc, get it quick. The second is fun too. But the last is a disc to avoid.

Chamber orchestra puts Ashdod on the map

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

For a country as small as this one, the abundance of local orchestras makes very little sense.

After all, the music-loving audience is rather limited, and there is no real need to have so many ensembles competing for the same audience.

That said, through the years many local orchestras have generated a very supportive local audience which does not want to trav-

el far for its classical-music entertainment. So orchestras in smaller locations seem to survive, barely one must admit, simply from playing in front of very enthusiastic local audiences.

These orchestras have very little opportunity to tour away from their own home turf, yet at home they are always No. 1. One of them is the Ashdod Chamber Orchestra, now calling itself the Israel Chamber Orchestra Ashdod, which recently announced a season of eight concerts in two series,

performed in Ashdod's Yad Labanim Auditorium.

Music director Luis Gurelik is on the podium in half of the concerts leading his musicians in selections by Mozart, Telemann, Pergolesi, Handel, Cimarosa, Prokofiev, Schubert and Vaughan Williams. Other conductors appearing in Ashdod next season include Shimon Cohen in a program of music by Tchaikovsky and Czerny, as well as new works he himself will compose. Spaniard Roberto Tobaro, American Robert Gutter

and Russian Georgi Garmian - in a jazz evening with Leonid Ptashka - will also be featured, as will Aaron Kaminski and Avram Felder playing arrangements by Ellington, Gershwin and others.

Among the many soloists performing in Ashdod next season, most of whom are Israelis, are Ashdod pianist Yanina Kudlik, oboist David Carmel, veteran duo pianists Bracha Eden and Alexander Tamir, young and upcoming coloratura soprano Ann Skibinski and others.

Subscriptions for an eight-concert series in Ashdod cost NIS 330 to NIS 370.

Although the Ashdod Chamber Orchestra does not appear that often outside of its home, music lovers will be able to hear it play on September 17 at the Noga Theater in Jaffa in a gala concert under the baton of Gurelik, playing the overture to Rossini's *L'italiana in Algeri*, Haydn's Symphony No. 104 and Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto with soloist Nathaniel Dreifelt.

NEWS

of the muse

Leo is no 'Psycho'

Leonardo DiCaprio made headlines in June when he expressed interest in playing a serial killer in the film version of Bret Easton Ellis's novel *American Psycho*. Lions Gate Films announced that the actor was attached to the project, but DiCaprio's manager and publicist said that Lions Gate had jumped the gun and that the 23-year-old star was still making up his mind.

Now, apparently, Lions Gate has made its own decision: DiCaprio is out. The independent production company - which had offered DiCaprio \$21 million - was still in talks with him as recently as two weeks ago, when he joined Cameron Diaz and other actors in a read-through of the *American Psycho* script.

But sources said the actor, who is becoming known in Hollywood as being slow to commit, could not give a definite date that he would be available to work on the film. Lions Gate decided to move forward without him, paring down the film's \$40-million budget to the \$10-million to \$15-million range and asking director Mary Harron, who had been ousted when DiCaprio got involved, to return to the project.

Los Angeles Times

Cindy Crawford 'pleased' with 'Playboy' pictorial

Supermodel Cindy Crawford first did a nude layout for *Playboy* a decade ago and recently did another for the magazine's October issue, over the objections of her advisers.

"My agent, among other people, said 'You shouldn't do *Playboy* again because people are just starting to take you seriously,'" Crawford says in the September 7 *People* magazine. "I thought, 'How sad. Do I have to sacrifice being perceived as a sensual woman to be taken seriously?'"

The recently remarried model, who has also done some acting and *House of Style* episodes on MTV, has an ABC special due September 22 called *Sex With Cindy Crawford*. Her latest *Playboy* spread is her fourth (she also appeared in the magazine in 1994 and 1995).

At 32, Crawford admits her picture-perfect body has changed since her first *Playboy* shoot. "Obviously some things aren't quite as high or perky as they were, but my body is a result of how I treated it, as opposed to what I was born with," Crawford said. "I am really pleased with the pictures."

AP

Urich to lead Hollywood Christmas Parade

TV star and cancer survivor Robert Urich will be at the helm of this year's Hollywood Christmas Parade. The former star of *Vegas*, *Spencer For Hire* and *The Lazarus Man* was named grand marshal for the 67th annual holiday parade through the heart of Hollywood.

Urich heads a cruise ship on the current American TV show, *Love Boat, The Next Wave*. The 51-year-old star underwent chemotherapy, radiation treatments and two operations in the mid-1990s to successfully fight synovial cell sarcoma. He has been cancer-free for more than a year.

This year, the parade will offer a commemorative ornament, with a portion of the proceeds donated to Urich's favorite charity, the American Cancer Society.

Previous Hollywood Christmas Parade grand marshals include John Wayne, James Stewart and Tom Arnold.

AP

Magic Johnson: Black stars let me down

Magic Johnson says the main reason his talk show failed was that top black celebrities wouldn't appear on the program.

"We all have to support each other, and we don't do that. Black stars think that if they're not on *Leno* or *Letterman*, then they're not making it. That's the problem," the former basketball star said in an online interview. "Their managers and agents keep them off of the black shows. There it is, there's your major problem right there."

Johnson, whose *The Magic Hour* was canceled earlier this month, urged blacks to support the next attempt at a black entertainment program.

"We still need an avenue," he said on the Electronic Urban Report Website. "Because, regardless if the show was good or not, you don't have an outlet anymore. Now we will complain because we don't have anything."

AP

Mulan not going home, yet

Although Chinese censors have yet to welcome Disney's cartoon film *Mulan*, the legendary woman warrior is still remembered in her home country.

Researchers have identified the hometown of the historic figure on which the legend is based, China's state-run Xinhua News Agency reported.

The unidentified researchers believe that *Mulan* - whose real surname was Wei - was born about 1,300 years ago in what today is central Henan province's Yucheng county. Xinhua said. A tomb and hall erected in her memory can still be found, it said.

Mulan was eulogized through the centuries as a personification of duty to family and country. Disguised as a man, she became a soldier in place of her sickly father and fought off invading northern tribes.

While Disney's *Mulan* has earned critical praise in the US, executives at China's film bureau and the China Film Company, the state-run importers, said officials have no plans to bring the movie to China.

Disney ran afoul of China's leaders last year for releasing *Kundun*, a film about the life of Tibet's Dalai Lama that was seen as critical of Chinese rule over the Himalayan region.

AP

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The wrong lesson

The strike that prevented yesterday from being the first day of school teaches Lesson One of the school year: Teaching is just a job. Teachers may or may not be underpaid; they are certainly undervalued. But teachers do not contribute to their own place in society by holding their students hostage to the annual ritual of salary negotiations.

The first lesson for next year should be that teachers' unions and the government find an alternative, less disruptive method to resolve disputes.

One of the flashpoints of this year's dispute concerns the question of overtime pay for teachers accompanying school trips. The teachers, currently being paid only about NIS 50 extra for an overnight trip with their class, are demanding over NIS 700 per night. This particular dispute went on most of the last school year, resulting in the cancellation of many school trips, disrupting an important school tradition and causing significant economic losses to areas of the country that normally benefit from such excursions. The Finance Ministry has accepted the principle of an increase, but will not pay the enormous rise demanded by the teachers.

To stave off the teachers' demands, which also included an 8 percent salary hike, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced yesterday that he had secured agreement from Knesset leaders to freeze all salaries of senior government officials, including their own. This step - which, of course, should be implemented, not just declared, sends the right signal to the entire public sector. Wall Street's 6.4% drop on Monday is a sign of economic uncertainty that would mitigate against Israel loosening its fiscal belt. Keeping a lid on salaries is an important component of such restraint.

Though teachers' wages may remain low when compared to what society demands of them, this disparity is not being ignored. According to Treasury wage director Yossi Kucik, real wages of teachers were raised 27% between 1993 and 1997. The Treasury is agreeing to at least another 5% increase, amounting to a raise in real terms of 1.5%.

Nor is it just the teachers' dispute that is delaying school this year.

The National Parents Association, which has announced strikes in a number of schools around the country, is obviously right to

demand that safety requirements be met, particularly after three children were killed in accidents in June. There is no excuse for skimping on safety, especially when what is often jeopardizing children is not lack of budgets, but sheer irresponsibility - such as the decision to allow youngsters to play under a roof that was under construction at a Beersheba school, which collapsed, killing two.

Unfortunately, negligence is not the only school safety concern. Education Minister Yitzhak Levy said yesterday that this school year will be dedicated to the theme of mutual respect, under the motto: "the right to receive respect, the duty to give it." The late Zevulun Hammer chose this theme, Levy explained, because from 1994 to 1996, violent incidents in the schools rose 53%. This is a staggering figure, and one which Levy is right to address.

But education is about setting examples - in and out of class. If teachers and government officials cannot settle their disputes without the constant threat of strikes, it will be harder to teach students the fine points of conflict resolution.

It is inevitable that there will be disputes over salaries and safety in the education sector, as in almost any other. The question is the process of addressing them, and the degree to which debates over non-educational issues have crowded out other issues that would normally dominate the educational agenda.

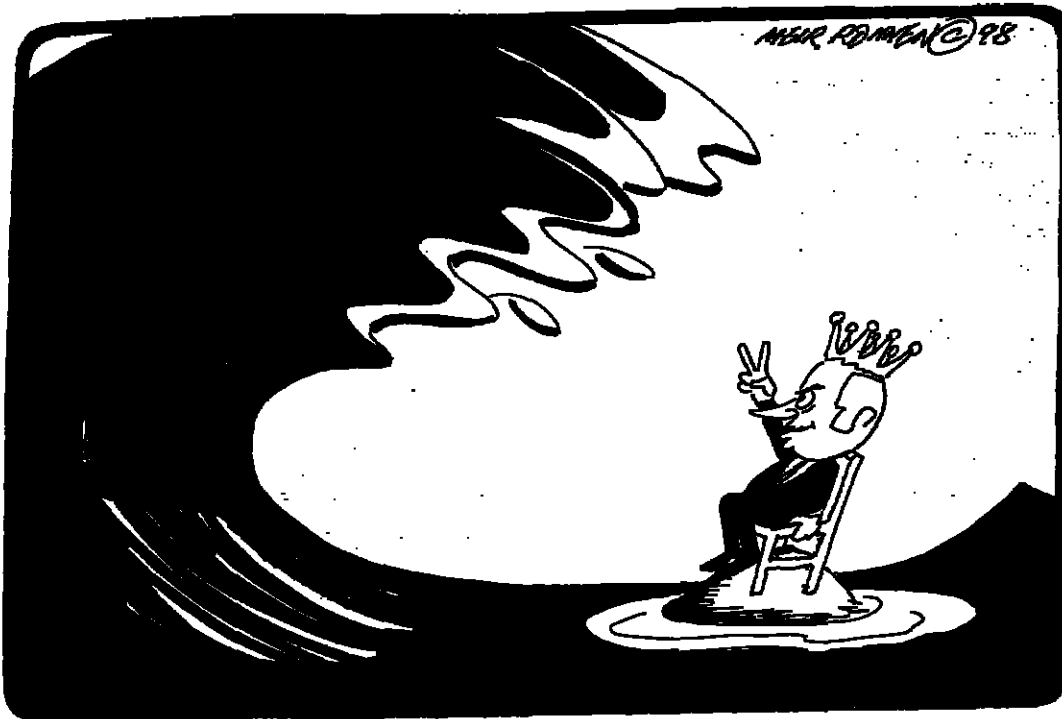
The right example for teachers and government officials to set is to establish a deadline for resolving disputes before the beginning of the school year, and for both sides to accept some form of arbitration - perhaps by a Knesset or an independent committee - if agreement is not reached. Labor courts are able to avert strikes in some cases, but other mechanisms can be employed if going to court is not appropriate.

A model that works in the education sector could certainly be applied more widely, to stave off other paralyzing public-sector disputes.

The right to strike, which is a hallowed right in any democracy, should not be curtailed, but it should be an action of last resort rather than a routine component of negotiations.

Teachers, in particular, should remember that for their profession to be treated with the respect it deserves, they need to set an especially high standard for civic-mindedness.

King Canute



Educational segregation

My 16-year-old daughter was supposed to return to school yesterday.

As was our neighbor's 16-year-old daughter. The strike postponed their return to the classroom, but on a normal school day, the two girls can leave their houses at the same time and say a brief hello to each other, but then they each go on their respective buses to their separate schools, my daughter to her religious high school in Beersheba, my neighbor's daughter to the state high school outside Omer.

The two girls have been neighbors since 1991, a period of seven years, but they hardly know anything about each other. They each maintain their own friends and social circles. Even outside school hours, one of them goes to a religious youth movement, while the other attends the local scouts organization.

The decision to segregate religious and secular children in their own separate schools was probably one of the most anti-educational, negative decisions ever made by an Israeli government.

At the time, in the early years of the state, it seemed normal to separate just about everyone from everyone - kibbutz schoolchildren from their moshav and development town neighbors, the town schools from their rural surroundings, Jewish children from their Arab counterparts and religious kids from their secular neighbors.

While paying lip service to the belief in integration, we have institutionalized educational segregation to the extent that children know very little about their neighbors and, in many cases, see them as being so different that they are taught to undermine their values as worthless or of lesser value than their own.

It is not easy to mix religious and secular children in a single school. The practical problems are many.

DAVID NEWMAN

What food would they eat? What, if any, form of religious observance would they follow? What would happen if some of them wanted to have a party or an outing on Shabbat? To what extent is each prepared to compromise in his or her own beliefs and behavior as a means of coexisting with the other?

The decision to segregate religious and secular children in separate schools was one of the most negative decisions ever made by an Israeli government

the Other?

THE SEPARATION of schools is as much, if not more, about politics as it is about education. When I moved to the community in which I presently reside some 10 years ago, there was a single school, for religious and secular children (albeit in separate classes).

This, for many parents, was unacceptable and they demanded that separate schools be set up instead of, God forbid, having their children mix with those who were different.

As soon as the National Religious Party made it clear that it would only help promote religious education if there were to be a separate school with a separate principal and separate budgets, it became clear to those of us who opposed the move to separation that there was little chance of prevailing.

Great responsibility

STUART E. EIZENSTAT

We also hope the Swiss National Bank absorbs and acts on the findings of the Bergier Commission. Completing these steps will solidify Switzerland's leadership among nations undergoing the wrenching process of coming to terms with this tragic and traumatic period in history.

There is growing international consensus that justice must be done for Holocaust victims

Second, we must expand our international search for truth to other areas, particularly looted art and insurance. To this end, the Department of State and the US Holocaust Memorial Museum will co-host the Washington Conference on Holocaust-Era Assets later this year. The objective will be to review our progress on the gold issue, to share research on other assets - especially artwork and insurance - and to renew the drive to open archives that have for too long been closed.

WE HAVE a great responsibility to Holocaust survivors, and their heirs and families, many of whom are American citizens, to shed light on these issues and to encourage appropriate means of addressing them.

There is legislation, either passed or under consideration, in several states, which reflects widespread concern with this issue in the United States. The National Association of Insurance Commissioners is to be commended for forming a task force that will represent all 50 states to address Holocaust-era claims.

We strongly support its efforts to develop, along with key

European insurers during the war period, an international commission to deal with insurance-related issues.

Third, the international search for truth has now resulted in 16 countries setting up historical commissions to look into their own pasts and actions during World War II. We hope their work will be complete by the end of the millennium.

This effort is not just for history's sake. It is so we can learn the lessons of the past and use them to build a more just world.

Fourth, we must expand the important task of promoting Holocaust education so that the dimensions of the Holocaust will resonate for future generations. We are hosting a meeting in September with representatives of Sweden, the United Kingdom and other governments to discuss ways to internationalize this effort.

The Swedish government deserves special recognition for its recent initiative to launch a comprehensive Holocaust education program at home. These efforts remind us that the broader lessons of the Holocaust must be learned by future generations if we are to avoid repeating the horrors of the past.

Finally, we must continue our efforts in the area of property restitution. Among the many atrocities committed by the Nazis was their systematic effort to confiscate property and institutions from individuals and communities. Many of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe have instituted procedures for the restitution of confiscated communal property. However, most of these countries have only just begun to resolve this issue. A constructive approach to property restitution requires both courage and leadership from these governments and support from the United States.

The author, a US undersecretary of state, has led the administration's work on Holocaust-related issues.

(The Washington Post)

It's not fair

RUTHIE BLUM

No matter how old I get, there is something about the beginning of the school year which brings me back to the sensations of childhood.

First, there is that slight sinking of the stomach as the end of summer vacation approaches - a feeling similar to the end-of-the-weekend blues, with the start of a yet another work-week looming.

Then there is the acceptance - and even some degree of relief - at the prospect of having life resume its routine pace, however chaotic or humdrum this may be.

Finally, there is the excitement - the butterflies, the frenzied phone calls to friends to find out who the teacher is, where the classroom is located, what time to meet at the bus stop.

This is the excitement I associate with the smell of crisp, unused notebooks and freshly sharpened pencils; with the sound of cellophane being ripped off of brand new folders; with the sight of colorful erasers and rulers. With the not unpleasant insomnia caused by the careful planning of wardrobe and hairdo - an inability to fall asleep similar to job-interview or pre-flight jitters.

It is the excitement I continue to associate with new beginnings. With hope for a better and brighter future. One with possibilities for higher grades and fewer disappointments. It is the excitement I continue to associate with the opening of doors and the broadening of horizons. In short, it is the excitement I will always associate with expectations.

BUT IS THIS the way my children have felt this past week? Will the end of August have the same Pavlovian effect on them that it has had on me all these years?

That is the sensation my kids experience every year at this time.

Judging from their uncharacteristic even keel, I think not. Though, like me at their age, they have spent an inordinate amount of time on the telephone engaged in speculation relating to the upcoming school year (as well as inordinate sums of my hard-earned money on school and wardrobe-related paraphernalia), their anticipation has a completely different feel to it than mine continues to have.

On them, the death of Princess Diana exactly a year ago seems to be leaving more of an associative imprint where the eve of the school year is concerned than any "snap, crackle and pop" of the wrappings and trappings of new beginnings.

For them, the annual parental anxiety about whether the school year will commence on schedule is as central a part of their end-of-August experience as their last-minute trips to the neighborhood book and shoe stores.

"Who's striking this time?" asked one of my sons as he fiddled with the remote control buttons to locate the evening news to hear about the Diana and Dodi memorial services. "Is it the teachers' union, the teachers' organization or the parents?"

"What? There's a strike?" piped in his younger brother, while making a face at the distasteful design of his NIS 25 pencil case. "So we get to stay home tomorrow?"

"Well, then, I'm not going to bother making a sandwich," blurted his teenage brother, as if in defiance of the educational system in general and of me in particular.

"You'd better make a sandwich just in case," warned the instigator, who by now had located the proper channel and was trying to make sense of the dispute. "We might not know until tomorrow morning whether there's school or not."

"But if we're not going to school tomorrow, then we can stay up and watch *Blind Date*," whined their little sister, who had just finished having a tantrum over the loss of a hair ribbon. "And if we are going to school, then we have to go to sleep early - so it's not fair."

It's not fair. That is the sensation my Israeli kids experience every year at this time. It is the sentiment they are bombarded with from the moment they enter first grade until the moment they enter the army. It is the sentiment most vociferously expressed by their educators on the eve of each and every school year.

Is it any wonder, then, that they don't join me in salivating at the prospect of fresh starts?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CAR SAFETY

Sir, - In *Time Out* of August 28, Joel Gordin reported that insurance companies are skeptical of the state of vehicles that were (or were alleged to have been), stolen.

The answer to this problem is to increase the scope of the annual vehicle safety check to give the owner a written record of the state of his vehicle, over and beyond the bare safety minimum.

The sort of test I envisage is the one usually performed before the sale of a used vehicle. If the insurance companies were to encourage this, they would benefit overall, as would the public, especially if noxious emissions and exhaust

noise were additionally and compulsorily tested.

One must mention here that exhaust emissions are periodically tested in the US and Europe, where the gasoline is already much cleaner.

As to the money this would cost the motorist, I believe it need not cost more than would a drive of some fifty kilometers if the insurance companies play their part, and greatly increase the turnover of the testing stations.

PETER HIRSCHMANN

Haifa.

THE FULL PICTURE

Sir, - Trying not to be overly cynical or heartless, and assuming the front page picture in the August 27 issue depicting the little girl crying over the damage to her house from Katyusha rockets was not staged, I see another loss that we make light of.

Part of the scenario includes cigarette butts on the ground and a package of cigarettes on the mother's knee. Having spent most of my life in the US, where the general population has become much more educated to the damage caused by both first- and second-hand smoke, I find it hard to fathom the ignorance and laxity of the public in this regard.

Take a look at what is going on

around us. Notice how many people walking on the street or in a mall, including parents with infants in their arms or in strollers, have a cigarette dangling from their lips or in their hands.

It is not uncommon to see pictures or TV news scenes of soldiers and police on duty doing the same. Politicians and other public figures are also not immune from this.

There are some good things we can and should learn from the US and the public awareness of this problem is one of them.

WILLIAM WEISBERG

Jerusalem.

HOLY CITIES

Sir, - "Palestinians" demand we abandon Hebron, our second holiest city.

Fine - if they evacuate Jerusalem, our holiest, but only

their third holiest site (recently elevated from fifth place)!

MILTON KRAMER

Arad.

THE CHRISTIAN CROSS

Sir, - Yehudah Rapuano has expressed in a recent letter (August 25) his feelings regarding the Christian symbol of the cross. As a Christian in the Catholic Church, I would like to offer some remarks on his words.

The symbol of the cross has never struck fear in Christians' hearts, nor has been an emblem of terror. The cross is not a shame, and had never been regarded by Christians as a sign for crushing anyone's dignity or personal rights. Rather, it has always been and still is a symbol of spiritual liberation for all the ones who have welcomed its message.

The cross has been venerated by hundreds of millions of people as the instrument that God in his providence chose for the payment of a great price: the price that divine justice demanded for the sins of all mankind. These are the real evil, the source of every crime. Therefore the sight of the cross can only be for us a source of gratitude, of hope.

Yehudah Rapuano may not share these considerations, but I would like to point out that, if - as he correctly writes - the cross is the Christians' most precious emblem, it simply does not make any sense to interpret that a Christian can show it in order to offend or dishonor anyone else's memory.

MERCEDES RUBIO

Jerusalem.

UTTER RUBBISH

Sir, - Regarding Bernard Wasserstein's article praising mixed marriages as the 614th mitzvah: The man has no shame, and he writes such utter rubbish.

ZEEV GOLIN

Rehovot.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

50 years ago: On September 2, 1948, *The Palestine Post* reported that Arabs continued to break the truce in Jerusalem by attacking and shelling Jewish positions. They also reinforced their garrison in the Old City with new, well-trained and equipped Syrian mercenaries. The Arab Legion infantry which advanced on Jewish positions in

Abu Tor and on Mount Zion was repulsed after heavy fighting.

25 years ago: On September 2, 1973, *The Jerusalem Post* reported from Cairo that the visiting UN Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim appeared to be busier explaining his earlier reference to Jerusalem as a capital of

Israel, than pursuing his official fact-finding mission in the Middle East. Waldheim had also sent a special envoy to Amman with a similar explanation that his reference to Jerusalem was inadvertent and that there was no change in the UN position on this issue.

Alexander Zvielli

سكنا من الامم

How to hold a family reunion

For those who want to strengthen family ties, a whole industry of planners and travel agents has sprung up to make getting the generations together easy and fun, writes Elizabeth Large



Together again: Sisters Rose Feinberg, 78, from Bobroisk in Byelorussia, and Bella Price, 90, (with cane) from Miami, Florida, are reunited in Tel Aviv - Bella ran away to the US to get married when Rose was three. The sisters last met for a few hours in 1967. (Hasech Guttmann)

There are no statistics on how many family reunions start at funerals, but the number must be high.

"People say to each other, 'We've got to stop meeting like this,'" says Edith Wagner, editor of *Reunions Magazine*.

The realization that the older generation won't be around forever often spurs people to organize a happier way to get together and strengthen family ties.

This is the season for reunions because kids are out of school, people are able to take vacations and there are fewer scheduling conflicts.

In fact, if this story inspires you to organize your own family gathering, you have just enough time to plan a summer reunion - for 1999, that is.

"Give planning the first one enough time," says Wagner. "One to two years is not too much. Don't do it alone, and don't try for the moon the first time. Keep it simple and be practical."

The first reunion might be a potluck picnic in the park, but you never know where it will go from there.

Dr. Curtis Adams, a dentist in West Baltimore, and his five siblings began getting together every other year in the 1960s.

"After my father turned 90," he says, "We started meeting every year."

The Adams family reunion has taken place on cruise ships and in hotels; the original siblings usually act as hosts on a rotating basis.

And "once every seven years, we go back to our home site in Waycross, Georgia," says Adams.

When the reunion was held in Baltimore, in 1994, it had grown so much the family had to reserve a block of rooms in the Radisson Hotel to accommodate everyone. The event, which takes place the third weekend in July, includes more than 100 family members.

Participants get Adams reunion T-shirts, and there are always lots of social activities. On Sunday, the group attends the church of the family member sponsoring the event and donates 10 times the age of Adams's father (\$1,000 this summer).

The Adams reunion will be one of about 200,000 taking place this year in the United States, estimates Tom Ninkovich of Reunion Research, which publishes booklets on organizing and holding reunions. A whole industry of reunion planners and travel agents has sprung up to make getting the generations together easy and fun.

There's a huge span of activities for reunion-goers, says Kevin Abell of Roland Park Travel in Baltimore. "We've done cruises, which are great because they appeal to a mix of generations; but we've also done everything from dude-ranch vacations to planning trips to state parks."

Often participants count these trips as vacations, which they would save for anyway, so it's not just wealthy families who hold their reunions in resort hotels or on cruise ships. But if the event gets too expensive, invariably it will exclude some member of the family. Once the family has decided what sort of reunion it wants ("Pick up the telephone and start calling," advises Adams), the next step is to set the date.

course, is learning the family history. Ninkovich recommends gathering as much material as possible to tell the story: photos, heirlooms, recipes, photocopies of immigration lists, even music. Plan a program where people can talk about family history and ethnicity. "A reunion is more important than any other gathering insofar as its long-range benefit to the family," says Ninkovich. (The Baltimore Sun)

Minding your money



By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich

Kfir, a CD-ROM in Hebrew by Minisoft, for Windows 95, distributed by Bug Multisystem, for adults for home or office use, NIS 279

Rating: ★★★★★

You don't have to be a pedantic yekke, either by ethnic origin or by personality, to use this program - but it helps.

The average Israeli barely gives his bank and credit-card statements a glance when they arrive by mail each month. The shekels flow in and out of his account like the tides, but most people don't check them for errors, and they're unlikely to be familiar with how many payments are left on the new refrigerator or how much goes for the mortgage.

Will they have the discipline to enter detailed information on income and expenses into a database on their computer? They may not, but they should give it a try, because knowing what you spend each month on non-essentials could reduce or even eliminate a perennial overdraft.

Kfir (the program is the latest 4.02 version) begins with the color photo of an American-style home of red bricks and white aluminum siding, surrounded by trees and shrubbery (if an Israeli had a house like this, he probably wouldn't have to worry about accounting for every shekel with this program).

The menu on the top includes a mini-diary that runs from the year 1900 to 2100 (for people who really like to plan ahead). Pick any date in the past, present or future, and you'll see that month's calendar (but without Hebrew holidays or dates). Another click allows you to leave electronic reminders on any date to come that will automatically pop up when that day arrives. Another handy accessory is a phone directory that, besides listing names and numbers, also dials whomever you want if your modern-equipped computer is hooked up to a phone line.

But the most important part of the program is the database for your budget, suitable either for home use or for a small business. You can open as many super-files as you want, and privacy is ensured because you must key in a password to reach them.

For each superfile (representing a family's financial records or that in a small business or organization), you should enter details on all bank accounts, credit cards, standing orders at the bank, investments, interest and so on. When you note that you spent certain amounts at the supermarket, the garage or for telephone lines, for example, the program automatically calculates how much per month or year you spent on food, car maintenance and communications. Details are available on every credit transaction, such as a mortgage: how many payments you made, how many are left and how much interest is due.

Ingoing and outgoing figures appear in a customized "Crystal Report" - a combined bank and credit-card statement that shows how much money you have (or owe) at the end of the month.

Just ask for it, and you'll get a report in the form of a bar, pie or line graph showing expenses by day, month or year for each bank account or totaled for all of them. A special section stores information about the Cost-of-Living or Building Indexes, which can affect the calculations as well; other indexes, such as the dollar-exchange rate, can also be added. If you enter the percentage of linkage to each index, the program will automatically make the calculation. Instead of pulling down frequent menus, you can designate graphic symbols as icons on up to 10 buttons on the screen and get into any of them instantly.

Kfir is certainly a boon for keeping track of your money, even if you're a complete layman in the field. Upgrades can be downloaded from the company's Internet site at www.minisoft.co.il. But before you buy it, you must commit yourself to spending a few minutes a day or week entering all the necessary financial data.

Goosebumps: *Escape from Horrorland*, two CD-ROMs in English, by Dreamworks Interactive, distributed by Bug Multisystem, requires Windows 95, for children age eight and up, NIS 179.

Rating: ★★★★★

This column has preferred to steer clear of reviewing brutal, pointless computer programs for youngsters that have no educational value but constitute the majority of sales in software shops. They're pretty much all the same, except for the variations of plot, characters and level of violence. Instead, we've focused on education, reference works and service programs for children and adults.

But there's a narrow field in between: kids' software that doesn't really teach, but still provides an exciting challenge to the intuition and exercise of one's skills of logic without resorting to the lowest common denominator of push, shove, bam and boom. This CD-ROM, made in the US, is one of that rare species.

Based on the *Goosebumps* books by R.L. Stine, the program was produced by Dreamworks Interactive, which is a software company held jointly by Bill Gates's Microsoft and the movie firm of Steven Spielberg, David Geffen and Jeffrey Katzenberg. Naturally, because of this partnership, it skillfully uses a lot of video clips.

The heroine of the story is - for a change - a girl about 12 years old named Lizzy. Her parents asked her to babysit at home with her brother Luke and his friend Clay, but somehow, they disappeared. "Our house started shaking... there were all kinds of weird noises, with lights flashing and shutters banging," she tells her audience in a movie-clip introduction that was produced with TV-like clarity.

Suddenly, light flashes and Lizzy is transported to Horrorland, a ghost town with a cafe, butcher shop, museum, cinema and other facilities populated solely by ants, monsters, animated stone faces, bears, a human or two and occasional cockroaches. It sounds ghoulish, and may be a bit scary for the younger kids, but it can be quite funny, as when you click open the door in one room and see a skeleton taking a bath who screams in horror at the intrusion.

The movie theater actually shows a clip from an original *Dracula* movie starring Bela Lugosi!

The aim of the game is find and save Lizzy and the other prisoners in Horrorland. You must click on some of the objects you encounter in the many scenes and save them in the green pouch found by moving the mouse downwards. These come in handy. For example, when you encounter a really wild plant guarding the door to a building you need to enter, go to the abandoned butcher store and get a steak to keep it busy. Successfully maneuvering requires quite a lot of logic, memory and intuitive thinking. You should also click on every gold coin that's suspended on the screen, since these can be deposited in the slot of the stone-faced monster who sells his hints on how to proceed.

The dialogue is in English: Kids who don't know much of the language won't be able to absorb the spoken hints, but will still be able to get through the game. Click on a TV-like object for a map of Horrorland, including Werewolf Village, Monster Mall, Dracula's Castle and the Valley of the Lost Kings. At some point in the game, which can be saved for each individual player, you have to switch CD-ROMs, but this is not a chore. All in all, this program is very well made and will excite kids, even if this time they won't learn math, science or language.

Tips for the family get-together

Thinking of organizing a family reunion? Here are some tips from the experts.

Start small.

Choose a convenient date for the reunion, one that will not be disrupted by bad weather or other emergencies.

Keep records of expenses to help plan the next reunion.

Respect your relatives. If you and your family are the only ones attending, things might be better.

Remember, memories will mean a lot in the future. Family photos are precious. If you have them, it's a good idea to have them printed and displayed in a prominent place.

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The Parenting column will return next week

Corner



By Batsheva Mink

The magnificent heads of chrysanthemums bring a breath of autumn into the dog days of summer, just as most plants have flowered themselves to death.

Second only to the rose as the world's favorite flower, the chrysanthemum, or mum, is an adaptable perennial that transplants readily even in full bloom. It is easily reproduced, grows well in a variety of soils and offers a wide array of colorings, flower shapes and heights.

We planted chrysanthemums at the Botanical Garden in Jerusalem last year. They are now in full flower, with 500-700 blooms on each plant and as many buds to follow.

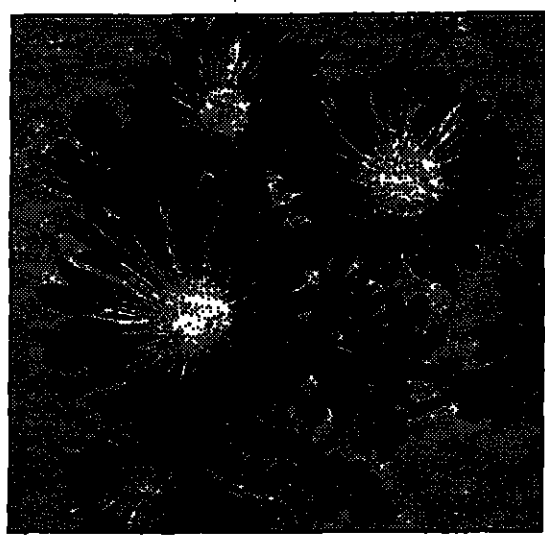
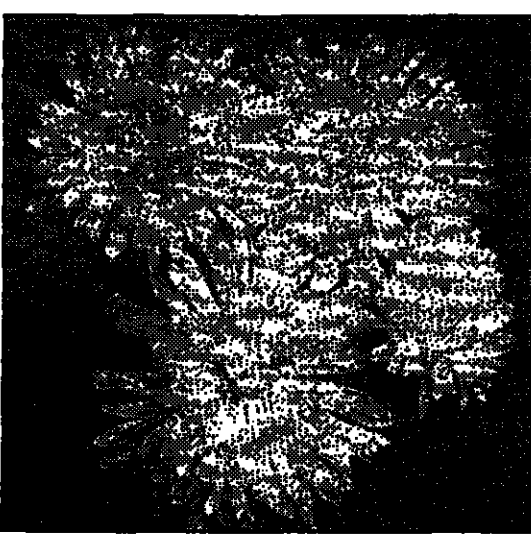
The chrysanthemum has become one of the florist's mainstays, bringing color into the garden during the autumn and early winter. It is hard to imagine that only 200 years ago the chrysanthemum was a rare exotic plant.

Originating in China, it was cultivated for more than 2,000 years as a medicinal plant whose juices promoted long life. It was the Japanese who actually refined the cultivation of this beloved plant.

The plants reached Japan by the fifth century CE. Two centuries later the flower was adopted by the emperor as his emblem and incorporated into the country's flag.

The first chrysanthemums to arrive in Europe apparently reached the Netherlands in about 1680, via China or Japan. In the 17th century, the Dutch sent ambassadors to Peking, traded with Japan and had permanent settlements in Taiwan from 1624 until 1661. The ties offered many opportunities to bring the plant back home. But there is no record that the plants survived this early introduction and it was not until almost 100 years later that the chrysanthemum became permanently established in European gardens.

The chrysanthemum (Heb. *harizit*) is a member of the daisy family (*Compositae*), one of the largest plant families in the world. The family, that includes other garden favorites such as sunflowers, asters, marigolds, lettuce, artichoke and zinnia, has approximately 21,000 species. The chrysanthemum, of which there are single- and double-flowering types that come in every color except true blue, takes its name from the Greek *chrysos*, meaning gold, and *anthos*, meaning flower. Most of today's chrysanthemums



mums are descendants of the double purple-flowered (*C. morifolium*) and the single yellow-flowered (*C. indicum*) varieties. The myriad types are arranged in groups with technical terms, but most of us like to refer to the plant simply as mums.

The chrysanthemum has a fascinating life cycle, producing buds only when the days become shorter (photoperiodism). This was discovered in 1937, and by the late 1940s short days were being artificially introduced by covering the mums' beds with black cloth from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. The growers also found a way to reduce the mums' height by spraying the plants with a growth inhibitor.

As a result of the tinkering, the

plants now develop buds at the height of 15 cm., instead of their natural height of 60-100 cms.

The manipulation has become so commonplace that millions of cuttings yield a surplus of cut and potted flowers all year round. If you buy one of these small potted mums for home decoration, it will revert to its natural height if planted in the garden.

Gardeners, though, will never be fooled by a trick of commerce. For us, autumn will remain the chrysanthemum's true season — each flower a bright torch against the waning of the summer light.

How to care for chrysanthemums
• Soil: When it comes to soils,

mums are fairly tolerant, but will grow much better in richer soil. If the soil is heavy, dig it up to allow for good drainage.

Position: Plant in an open, sunny part of the garden, or in a position where the plant will receive at least four hours of sunshine a day.

Staking: The large flowered varieties grow taller and carry more weight. They may need supporting. Insert a strong bamboo cane at a depth of 30-40 cms. before planting. Tie the stem fairly loosely to the stake. As the plant grows make additional ties.

Watering: Water thoroughly during dry spells, but do not keep the ground constantly soaked.

Fertilizer: Feed every two

weeks with a liquid fertilizer until the buds begin to swell.

Pests and Diseases: Aphids can become troublesome, and leaf miners can mark the leaves with railway patterns, but they are easily controlled by spraying with an insecticide.

Planting: Can be planted at any time except when the ground is cold and wet. Plant 30-40 cms. apart.

Propagation: Cuttings 5-10 cm. long are taken in February through June from new shoots that emerge from the base of the stems. Insert the shoots into an equal mixture of peat moss and perlite, water them and keep in a protected place. When rooted (3-4 weeks) they can be potted singly.

Once the pot is full of roots, plant them out in the garden or grow in larger pots.

Cuttings can be taken from stems during the summer months, even though they may not reach their full potential until the following year. Established plants can be dug up and divided in the early part of the year.

Batsheva Mink is a curator at the Jerusalem Botanical Gardens, Givat Ram. Your gardening questions and comments are welcome. Contact Batsheva Mink, POB 3943, Jerusalem 91039

TIP OF THE WEEK

For longer-lasting bouquets, cut your chrysanthemums in the early morning or late evening when the flowers are fresh. If they are cut during the heat of the day they will not take up water when placed in vases, and will go limp and flop over.

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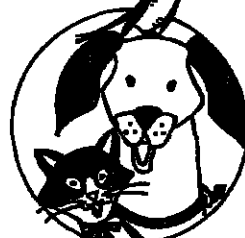
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Heads 'N' Tails



By D'vora Ben Shaul

Many people are concerned about feeding their pets properly and commonly ask if they can feed them raw meat and fish. The concern stems from commonly believed myths that raw meat will make a dog vicious or give it intestinal parasites.

There are two schools of thought on this subject, and your veterinarian should be consulted.

Veterinarians trained in the US are usually opposed to feeding raw meat, while those who studied in Europe find no reason to cook meat and fish for dogs and cats.

I feed raw meat to my animals and have always done so, but I learned most of my animal husbandry in a zoo where raw meat was fed to wolves, jackals, foxes, wild cats and larger carnivores.

Cats and dogs are predators, and their digestion is especially adept at handling raw meat. However, I would caution against feeding raw sheep and goat offal, which can cause some problems. While fish may have fish tapeworm, there is no danger of infection from eating raw fish - the parasite is specific for its host species and is destroyed by the digestive juices.

Dogs and cats can get tapeworm, however, from swallowing infected fleas, since the flea's body protects the worm in the stomach and passes it on to the intestines without damage.

As for raw meat making a dog vicious, it won't.

Another common concern is whether or not to give dogs chicken bones. All experts caution against feeding chicken bones, which can splinter into very small, sharp bone needles, but most owners do so anyway. The splintered bones can puncture the stomach or intestine, and surgical intervention is usually required to save the dog's life. It would therefore be extremely negligent of anyone to

The dos and don'ts of feeding your pet



advise feeding dogs chicken bones since the possibility of danger is real, though rare.

One of the best sources of a balanced diet is good-quality kibble. Fine products are made for both dogs and cats, and are suited to their specific needs. For instance, cat kibble has a much higher protein content than dog kibble and is also fortified with tyrosine, which prevents blindness in cats. A good kibble, plus a few treats in the form of suitable leftovers, can provide an ideal diet for your pet.

Most pets can be fed all kinds of leftover meats, dairy products and cooked vegetables - with the exception of potatoes and beans, which cause excess stomach gases. Some cats and a few dogs also like fruit, and there is no reason not to give it to them in small quantities.

As for sweets, cats don't care for them; but dogs have a "sweet tooth," and take delight in all sorts of goodies.

Giving dogs sweets will not cause worms - parasites come

from infected eggs or larvae, not from candy. But, like people, dogs can suffer dental problems. They do not need the sugar, and it is preferable to treat them with a dog biscuit.

Animals also differ widely in their tastes. One of my cats is a cucumber freak; another devours red cabbage, and a third is mad about hummus.

In the long run, use common sense and consult with your veterinarian about the best way to feed your pets.

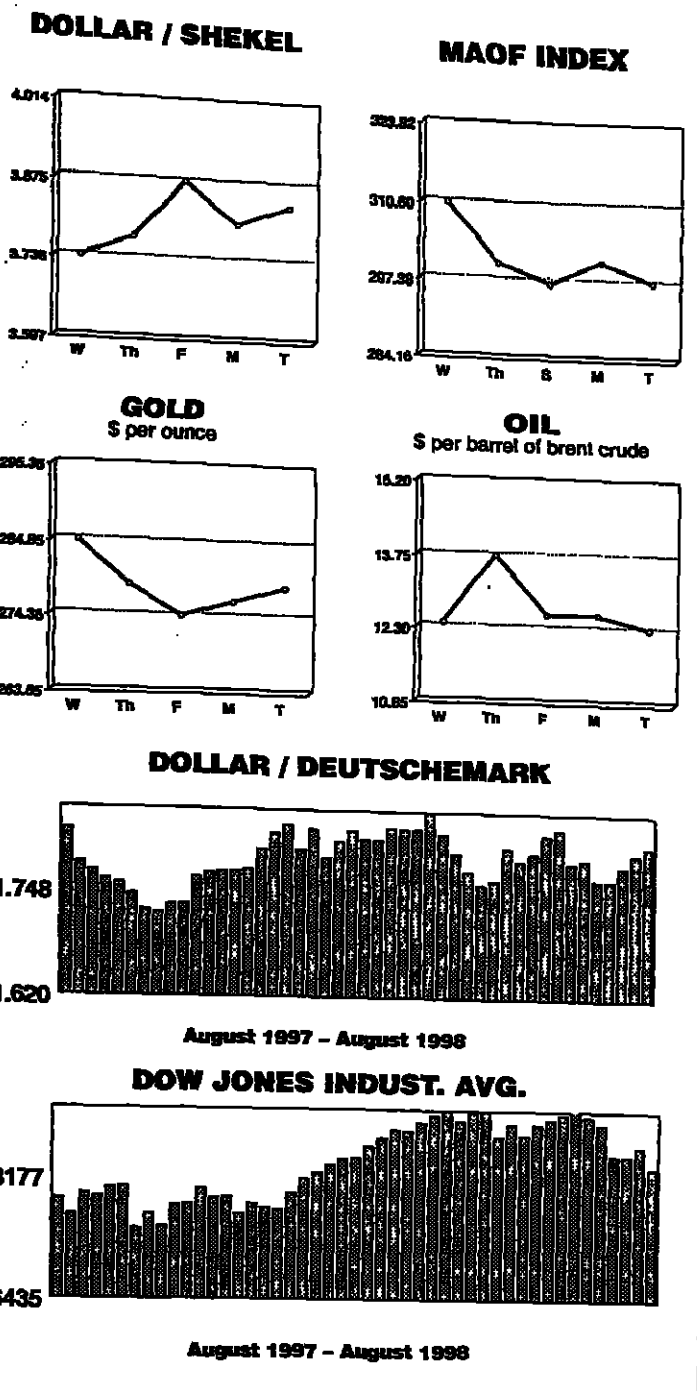
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BUSINESS & FINANCE

MARKETS

in brief



Foreign currency reserves increase by \$139m.
The country's foreign currency reserves rose by \$139 million in August to \$21.5 billion, the Bank of Israel said yesterday.
The central bank said in the report that it had refrained from intervening in foreign currency trading since the beginning of the year.
According to the figures, the shekel depreciated 11.47 percent against the dollar since the beginning of the year. *Dan Gerstenfeld*

6 companies backtracked on public offerings
Data published yesterday by the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange shows that six companies that intended to raise money based on first-quarter earnings reports have decided not to do so.
Apparently, the companies estimated that given the current market conditions their chances of completing the planned offerings were relatively low and the offers would have raised them less money. *Dan Gerstenfeld*

IBM looking to sell its global network
International Business Machines Corp. is looking to sell its Global Network operations for \$3 billion to \$4 billion to focus on the software and services related to the computer network, a person familiar with IBM's plan said.
IBM, the world's largest computer maker, declined to comment. The sale of the network, which is used by companies to transmit data and other information worldwide, was first reported in yesterday's *Wall Street Journal*.
IBM wants to shed the expense of maintaining the vast computer network and focus instead on the more lucrative software and consulting services that corporations require for their global communications.
Companies that have shown an interest include SBC Communications Inc., Ameritech Corp., U S West Inc., AT&T Corp., British Telecommunications Plc and several Internet providers, the source said. *Bloomberg*

Diamond exports down 27% in August
Diamond exports declined by 15 percent in the first seven months of the year, totaling \$2.944 billion, compared with \$3.481b. the same period last year.
In August, however, exports amounted to \$194 million in August compared with \$268m. in the same month in 1997, or a decline of 27%, mainly due to a drop in sales to the Far East, according to data released by the Industry and Trade Ministry yesterday.
Polished diamond exports in August totaled \$138m., down 39% from \$226m. last year, while rough diamond exports rose 32% to \$56m. from \$42m.
The US is Israel's main diamond market, with sales there amounting to 62% of Israel's diamond exports. *Nina Gilbert*

New standards policy to take effect November 1
The new policy on local standards for foods, which have prevented the import of many products from abroad, are to take effect on November 1, the Industry and Trade Ministry said yesterday.
Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky met with Health Minister Yehoshua Matza this week to discuss the suspension of standards requirements on more than 100 products. He said the goal of the move is to remove those standards that act as non-tariff barriers, thereby opening the market to a greater variety of products.
The ministers agreed that they would jointly decide on implementing the standards changes, which won't affect health and safety requirements. *Nina Gilbert*

5,000 immigrants lose jobs this year
Some 5,000 new immigrants have lost their jobs in industry since the beginning of the year, according to the Manufacturers Association. Immigrants in industry now number 73,000, 6% less than last year.
At the same time, new immigrants represent some 20% of the industrial workforce, with 90% working on production lines. *Nina Gilbert*

Netanyahu: Ministers must make sacrifices for defense, economy

By NINA GILBERT
Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called on his government yesterday to show restraint in its demands for spending in the 1999 budget as a means of keeping control of the budget deficit and protecting the economy from world economic turmoil.
"I intend to demand from each minister to make a personal sacrifice for the military, strategic and economic security of the country," he said at a news conference.
"I told the ministers that responsibility starts with the government. This means meeting the target of reducing the budget deficit. This is the best insurance that we will get through this turmoil," he said yesterday at a news conference.

Budget?
On Sunday, the government is to begin discussing how to spend the NIS 173.8 billion budget set for 1999. However, it also must decide where to make NIS 2.2b. in cuts to meet the budget deficit target of 2% of GDP for next year.
The ministers have all held meeting on the budget with the Treasury, which has proposed cuts in all ministries. The ministers have extra budget demands of NIS 12 billion.
Netanyahu said he believes that at the end of the day the ministers will show responsibility.
"It is not a simple process and means talks throughout the night in an attempt to persuade each minister," he said.
Netanyahu said he would put

existence and prosperity of the state," he said.
Meanwhile, Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein, whose Yisrael Ba'aliya faction voted against the budget plan, said he does not believe that the cabinet will be able to agree next week on the NIS 2.2 billion in cuts.
"They will not be able to come up with this cut. I don't see where they can get it from," he said, adding that the Defense Ministry needs more money, not cuts, and the same goes for the Education and Industry and Trade ministries.
"Every minister now is not ready for cuts, but they were all so supportive of cutting the budget deficit. Where did they think the money was going to come from?" he said. "When it was abstract

there were a lot of people who voted for it. Now we are talking about real cuts in the ministries in practical terms."
He called for a reopening of the macroeconomic package for 1999 agreed upon by the government.
"When the prime minister and finance minister see that the two options on the table are either to lose the government or rethink some of the goals, I hope that they will rethink some of the goals," he said.
Edelstein also said it was too early to know whether the economic crisis in Russia would lead to another wave of immigration. However, if the economic situation in Israel does not improve, these immigrants will go elsewhere, he said.



NYSE bosses show early confidence
New York Stock Exchange Chairman Richard Grasso (right), and president William Johnson exult before the opening bell outside the exchange yesterday. *(Reuters)*

PM: Israel will benefit from shekel depreciation

By NINA GILBERT
Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday said that while the depreciation of the shekel can have inflationary effects, it also has some benefits, as Israeli goods become cheaper abroad.
"[The depreciation] has the effect of increasing the competitiveness of Israeli products. Their prices in world markets go down."
"It is better that in order to increase the competitiveness of Israeli products in world markets, this happens as a result of a natural process of market forces and not by government intervention," he said.
Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman added that neither the government nor the Bank of Israel needs to interfere in foreign currency trading.
"I say again, the steps the government took in the past two years allow the market forces to act in the field of foreign currency. The government and the Bank of Israel do not need to interfere," Neeman said.
"I want to say very clearly that these steps have saved us from what has happened in other countries," Neeman said.
The prime minister added that he also sees no need to interfere in the markets.
"The more we can let market forces work, the better," Netanyahu said.

Treasury: Russian crises to impact upon economy

By DAN GERSTENFELD
The Israeli economy will be hurt by the financial crisis in Russia although it is too early to estimate to what extent, the Finance Ministry estimated in its monthly economic report published yesterday.
The Treasury said that the Russian turmoil cannot be compared to the Asian crisis, which led to a decline in exports to the region accompanied by lower demand for Israeli products in other countries and a 0.5 percent decline in GDP growth.
In the case of Russia, to which Israeli exports amount to less than 10% of total sales to Asia, the impact will be indirect but could be even stronger.
The crisis could impact on Israel in several ways:
- Raw materials prices - The crisis is expected to lead to a decline in Russian commodities prices from which Israel will benefit.
- Global demand - The crisis may lead to a decrease in global demand which in turn will also lead to a drop in demand for Israeli goods.
- Capital markets - Although it is difficult to predict what will happen on world markets, a decline on Wall Street will directly influence Israeli firms wishing to raise capital on Nasdaq.
- Emerging markets - Israel may be hurt by the change in sentiment towards emerging markets, which is expected to cause foreign investors to reduce their activity. At the same time, the proportion of Israel in the indices of emerging markets is expected to rise, leading thus to higher investments.
- Inflation - Despite expectations

Malaysia imposes capital controls

In his biggest gamble yet to halt a relentless slide in Malaysia's currency and stock markets, Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad erected barriers to selling the ringgit.
The restrictions, which prevent investors from converting the ringgits they earn from certain security sales for at least one year, triggered a run for the exits.
The Kuala Lumpur benchmark stock market index tumbled 13.3 percent, its biggest one-day decline in almost 11 years.
Investors said the barriers would discourage them from putting more money into the country. That's likely to make it more difficult for Malaysia to attract the capital it needs to help pull out of its first recession in more than 13 years.
"The government have shot themselves in the foot," said Colin Lee, fund manager at Chartered Asset Management Pte in Singapore with \$80 million invested in Asia. "We have one less country to invest in."
The restrictions are also the most concrete challenge to the open market prescriptions the International Monetary Fund has made to Asian countries to restore their economies.

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SEMI 900	-11.25
SEMI 1000	-11.25
SEMI 1100	-11.25
SEMI 1200	-11.25
SEMI 1300	-11.25
SEMI 1400	-11.25
SEMI 1500	-11.25
SEMI 1600	-11.25
SEMI 1700	-11.25
SEMI 1800	-11.25
SEMI 1900	-11.25
SEMI 2000	-11.25

LAST	CHANGE
ASX 100	-11.25
ASX 200	-11.25
ASX 300	-11.25
ASX 400	-11.25
ASX 500	-11.25
ASX 600	-11.25
ASX 700	-11.25
ASX 800	-11.25
ASX 900	-11.25
ASX 1000	-11.25
ASX 1100	-11.25
ASX 1200	-11.25
ASX 1300	-11.25
ASX 1400	-11.25
ASX 1500	-11.25
ASX 1600	-11.25
ASX 1700	-11.25
ASX 1800	-11.25
ASX 1900	-11.25
ASX 2000	-11.25

LAST	CHANGE
TSX 100	-11.25
TSX 200	-11.25
TSX 300	-11.25
TSX 400	-11.25
TSX 500	-11.25
TSX 600	-11.25
TSX 700	-11.25
TSX 800	-11.25
TSX 900	-11.25
TSX 1000	-11.25
TSX 1100	-11.25
TSX 1200	-11.25
TSX 1300	-11.25
TSX 1400	-11.25
TSX 1500	-11.25
TSX 1600	-11.25
TSX 1700	-11.25
TSX 1800	-11.25
TSX 1900	-11.25
TSX 2000	-11.25

Tel Aviv

Israeli stocks dropped, led by exporters, on concern that Russia's economic and political troubles signal the beginning of a worldwide economic slowdown that will depress demand for Israeli products abroad.

Teva Pharmaceutical Industries, a drugmaker with nearly 75 percent of sales abroad, dropped 2.1 percent to NIS 137.2. That led the Maof Index of the 25 largest stocks down 1.76% to 297.38.

"The situation in Russia is only one of the things that will bring a world-wide recession," said Israel Weinberg, deputy chief executive at Impact Securities. Local fund managers and small investors "don't see the end. They know that the crisis isn't for a day, a week or a month."

Koor Industries, Israel's largest exporter, dropped 2.5% to 354 and Tadiran, a subsidiary which sells telecommunications equipment abroad, fell 4% to 121 shekels.

The Maof Index dropped as much as 4.25 points in the first half hour, touching a six-month low, on speculation Monday's equity plummet in New York may not be the end of the financial turmoil to which Russia's woes have

contributed.

The early declines eased as the market was bolstered by buyers who bought blue chips at a discount, analysts said.

"There was big support for the major stocks at low levels. That gave confidence to the market," said Ira Stomovitz, a trader at Israel Brokerage and Investments.

Israeli companies with shares in the US were hit by the declines abroad. Nice Systems, a maker of voice and fax archiving systems, dropped 5.6% to 112.3 after its American depositary receipts lost 4.9% on Monday.

Europe

UK stocks fell for a fourth day, as the benchmark index all but erased its gains for the year. Vodafone Group Plc led decliners on concern the worsening outlook for global profits could trim U.K. earnings.

"I'm worried about valuations elsewhere in the world dragging on some of ours," said Nigel Thomas, the director of the ABN Amro Asset Management U.K. Growth fund, which has £40 million (\$67 million) in funds. "The stock market's like a bit of elastic - it's gone snap again."

STOCKS

Maof 297.38 ▼ 1.76% Dow Jones 7827.43 ▲ 3.8% FTSE 5169.10 ▼ 1.53% Nikkei 1436.63 ▲ 1.86%

The FTSE 100 index dropped 80.30 points, or 1.53%, to 5169.1, after earlier falling to 5075.7. The benchmark index is up just 0.65% on the year, compared with 20% gains as of July 20.

Vodafone fell 92p to 741 and British Telecommunications Plc, the U.K.'s biggest telephone company, fell 14 pence to 796.

Vodafone's "shares could easily halve," to come in line with growth prospects, said Thomas, "with valuations of 40% and growth running at about half that." Thomas said he hasn't bought any shares. "I've sat on my hands," he said.

Wall Street

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks rose yesterday after two sessions of punishing sell-offs, but the Dow Jones industrial average recovered less than a third of its 1,000-point loss over the previous four trading days.

The Dow industrial average rose 288.36, or 3.8%, to 7,827.43. Broad indexes were also higher, as many of the big losers of Monday came roaring back, including technology and consumer stocks.

Volume was very high, with about 1 billion shares changing hands on the New York Stock Exchange.

Traders and analysts said they were relieved to see the strength in the market, but they were unwilling to call it a permanent comeback for stocks.

"Although spirits have lifted, there's still a lot of edginess or tension," said Hugh Johnson, chief strategist at First Albany Corp. "We've seen head fakes before, where it appeared as though the market had stabilized or was recovering, and in fact it wasn't, and it was soon to be followed by bad news."

The buying was also spurred by analysts' comments in the morning.

Asia

Most Asian stocks fell, paced by a 13% plunge in Malaysia's benchmark index that left Rothmans of Pall Mall (Malaysia) Bhd. and other companies savaged as the government clamped new controls on its currency.

Stocks fell in Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand. Japan's Nikkei 225 index climbed 1.86%, to 1436.63 from 14107.89, as buying by government-linked pension funds erased an 400-point slide.

Malaysian stocks sank after the government announced a series of economic moves that will restrict the conversion of the ringgit into other currencies.

The key Composite Index tumbled 40.21 points, or 13.27 percent, to 262.70, its lowest since February 12, 1988. Leading the drop was Telekom Malaysia Bhd., which shed a full fifth of its value. The index fell as much as 13.7%.

(Bloomberg)

Yen rises to 11-week high on US rate concern

The dollar plunged to an 11-week low against the yen as traders speculated the Federal Reserve may cut interest rates to calm global markets, reducing the return on dollar-denominated investments.

"There continues to be talk about a Fed ease," said Anne Parker Mills, currency economist at Brown Brothers Harriman & Co.

The dollar suffered its worst day against the yen since June 17, when the US and Japan jointly intervened in the currency market to prop up the yen. It fell more than 4 yen to 134.98 yen, from 139.30 Monday.

The US currency was little changed against the mark at 1.7498, marks from 1.7474. Japanese Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, in a meeting in San Francisco later this week with

US Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin, is likely to propose that leading industrial nations act in concert to lower benchmark interest rates. Kyodo News Service said, citing unidentified Japanese government officials.

Japanese officials said global cooperation is imperative to give markets a sense of security, according to Kyodo.

Some investors who gained from the dollar's rise against the yen this year, also sold the US currency to cover losses in emerging markets, such as Russia and Latin America.

"As soon as those positions begin to unwind, there's a natural buying of yen that goes on," said Diego Giurleo, manager of foreign exchange sales at the Royal Bank of Canada.

The dollar tumbled against major currencies Monday after the

CURRENCIES

Dollar 3.8370 ▲ 0.95% Basket 4.1274 ▲ 1.41% Mark 2.1938 ▲ 2.03% Sterling 6.4306 ▲ 1.51%

Dow Jones Industrial Average plummeted 512 points, or 6.34%. With Japan's Nikkei 225 stock index up nearly 2% overnight, traders said Japanese investors are probably bringing home money invested abroad.

Reiterating those warnings yesterday, Eisuke Sakakibara, Japan's vice finance minister for international affairs, said buying yen is effective when the currency is already rising against the dollar, according to a Jiji Press report.

Still, many traders see this as a temporary weakness in the dollar, given that nothing has changed in Japan's gloomy economic outlook. The yen is still down about 5% against the dollar this year, as the economy remains stuck in its worst recession since World War II.

Elsewhere, sterling fell to \$1.6747 from \$1.6798 Monday.

The dollar was little changed at 1.4397 Swiss francs from 1.4425 francs and at 5.8686 French francs from 5.8670 francs. It was also little changed at 1729.50 Italian lire from 1726 lire. The US currency fell to 1.5535 Canadian dollars from 1.5673. (Bloomberg)

Gold rises as dollar falls

Still, persistent speculation that Russia will sell gold and other precious metals in a bid to raise much-needed cash is expected to cap any price gains.

Oil

Natural gas for October delivery opened 5.3 cents higher at \$1.805 per million British thermal units on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Traders are concerned that Tropical Storm Earl, which formed in the southern Gulf of Mexico late Monday, could cause shutdowns on offshore rigs in Texas and Louisiana. The storm could make landfall tomorrow.

Meanwhile, the American Gas Association reports that the nation's natural gas inventories were 82 percent full, the earliest in the storage injection season that storage levels have reached that point since the AGA began keeping records in 1993. Storage inventories are 23% above last year.

COMMODITIES

Gold \$279.35 ▲ 3.7% Crude Oil \$12.55 ▼ 0.01% CRB 197.91 ▲ 2.23%

Crude oil for October delivery fell 4 cents to \$13.30 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Traders were waiting for data on US supply and demand from the American Petroleum Institute.

Coffee for December delivery was little changed at \$1.16 a pound, 0.35 cent lower, on the Coffee, Sugar and Cocoa Exchange. Speculation that demand for beans would exceed supplies faded as roaster demand slowed. The hull comes as the bulk of harvests from growers in Mexico and central America won't be under way for another couple of months. Still, the biggest crop in 11 years from Brazil, the world's largest grower, at an estimated 35 million bags will likely keep roasters well supplied with beans this year.

Brazil's coffee exports, disrupted by a strike at the country's biggest port last month, are expected to reach 1.6 million bags in August, having been less than 1 million bags a month in earlier months, commodities brokerage GNT Ltd. said in its daily market commentary. (Bloomberg)

BONDS

US 30-year T-bill yield 5.35 ▲ 0.08%

one, some investors said. "The market's priced in about everything you can price in," said Paddison.

He said his firm recently sold some of its bond holdings, pocketing profits after the recent rally. The Fed last changed rates in March 1997, raising the target rate on overnight lending between banks by a quarter point. The Fed's

policy-setting committee next meets September 29. The Fed may be reluctant to cut rates without more signs of a slowdown.

On Friday, a government report will probably show that the economy added 377,000 jobs in August, according to the average forecast of analysts. That would suggest the strong jobs market - a concern for Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan and other central bankers - hasn't abated much.

"The Fed is on hold, looking for a slowdown," said Wright at Fimat. Yet Wright and other analysts did say the Fed may choose to cut rates if stocks post more big losses. Bond bulls, meanwhile, point to signs that the economy may be losing some steam.

A report on nationwide manufacturing released on Monday indicated that the economy is slowing and inflation is subdued. The National Association of Purchasing Management's index of factory activity rose to 49.4 in August from 49.1 in July, a smaller-than-expected rise. At the same time, its index of prices paid, an inflation gauge, was 38.4, near the 15-year low of 38 reached in July.

David Kotok, portfolio manager at Cumberland Advisors in Vineland, New Jersey, with \$400 million of fixed-income securities under management, predicts yields on 30-year bonds may fall to 4.90% in the months ahead as the economy slows and the Fed cuts rates.

"This is a great opportunity to buy bonds - it has been and it still is," Kotok said. "Interest rates are going lower." (Bloomberg)

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Precious Metals

Gold for December delivery rose as much as \$4.10, or 1.5 percent, to \$283.00 an ounce on the Comex division of the New York Mercantile Exchange. The US currency fell to a 10-week low against the yen after the Dow Jones Industrial Average on Monday suffered its worst rout in 10 months, erasing its 1998 gains.

The decline in the dollar makes dollar-priced gold less costly to investors using other currencies. The weakness in the US currency and stock markets could help boost demand for gold as an alternative asset and gold prices did climb during after-hours trading late Monday.

US bonds posted their biggest loss in 1 1/2 months as stocks moved upwards and investors balked at Treasury yields at the lowest in decades.

"The emotion in the stock market is dictating what goes on in bonds," said Sam Paddison, who oversees \$11 billion at First Capital Group in Philadelphia.

The US 30-year bond fell 1/32, or \$12.81 per \$1,000 bond, snapping a six-day rally and registering the biggest loss since June 17. Yields rose 8 basis points to 5.35 percent.

Bonds surged in recent weeks as turbulence in financial markets around the world sent investors rushing to Treasuries as a haven. On Monday, yields on US 30-year bonds fell as low as 5.23% - the lowest since the US started regular

sales of the securities in 1977 - after the Dow Jones Industrial Average plunged 6.4%.

Yesterday bonds fell as stocks rallied, briefly rebounded as stocks sank, and slumped again when stocks climbed.

"Bonds are being whipsawed" by turbulence in the stock market, said Gemma Wright, a government bond strategist at Fimat USA Inc.

Some investors also question whether bonds can rally much more with yields so low. Treasuries of all maturities yield less than the Fed's 5.5% target for the federal funds rate, the rate charged on overnight loans between banks. Two-year notes, at 4.85%, yield 65 basis points less than fed funds.

The drop in yields already reflects expectations for a Federal Reserve interest rate cut - if not more than

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A Ruud awakening for Gullit

ONE of the most endearing aspects of watching the recent World Cup on television for a month was listening to the wise comments of Gullit who was a pundit for Independent Television.

While your average ex-English player is confined to expressions of "The lads gave one hundred percent" and "He's got to be disappointed with that shot..." Gullit gave us a broad European view as he explained what the Spanish, French, Italian, German and Dutch press were reporting.

As intelligent off the field as he was on it, Gullit somewhat blemished his copy book last season when managing Chelsea with an acrimonious bust-up with Chelsea chairman Ken Bates over Gullit's contract. Despite employing a good PR agency, Gullit managed to antagonize the tabloids who felt he wasn't quite pulling his managerial weight. And we certainly never thought we would see him managing again here.

But we were wrong. With more turmoil reported at Newcastle last week, there was Ruud casually disembarking from a plane at Newcastle airport besieged by hacks - one hour later he was officially the new manager of St James' Park.

Presumably, the decision to take over at Newcastle may have had something to do with the reported £1 million per year salary on offer - when Ken Bates heard the news,

his reaction was succinct: "£1 million, is that gross or net?"

After Sunday's 4-1 mauling at home by Liverpool, Gullit clearly understands the task. The top of the pile in his in-tray concerns the future of Alan Shearer whose £15 million price tag (possibly reduced) could undoubtedly be swapped for three or four squad players.

Gullit was keen to play down any Shearer move, but most of the Sunday back pages were speculating that Manchester United and Arsenal may be interested in the England captain.

Newcastle and their managers are one of football's paradoxes. Why did the board allow Kevin Keegan to leave nearly two years ago when the team's exciting, attacking brand of football won the hearts of neutrals?

Dalglis, despite his pedigree, has failed to rekindle the success he enjoyed at Liverpool and Blackburn with the result that the fans resorted to bawling both Dalglis and the players in the first two games. The 66-1 bet on Newcastle at the start of the season, does not look so generous after all.

It will also be interesting to see how Gullit measures up to life in Newcastle. His half-

mark phrase as a TV pundit in Euro '96 was "sexy football" and he was at pains to repeat the assertion in his first press conference at Newcastle. But Gullit will soon realize that the financially depressed north-east of England is a far cry from the chic "sexy" King's Road of Chelsea, and on Sunday, Liverpool's visiting fans gave a cruel prelude of what was to come when they chanted "you can shove your sexy football up your arse."

And when a reporter put it to him that Tyneside may be a little provincial his reply: "Don't forget, I played in Genoa." But Gullit may find it difficult to adjust, particularly in pursuing his many media and cultural interests off the pitch.

IN cricket, as the season draws to a close, England's excellent series win over South Africa has been somewhat tainted by their poor performance in the one-off Test with Sri Lanka.

The Oval pitch was a batsman's paradise, that is unless you had to face the extraordinary skills of Sri Lankan spinner Muralitharan.

His seven wickets in the first innings was followed by another nine in the second as Sri

Lanka cruised to a ten-wicket victory. And there were some unsavory incidents on Sunday evening as England captain Alec Stewart and opener Steve James fought to play the final few overs out.

Stewart was upset with the close fielders going up for a catch and appealing in unison almost every time the ball popped up from his pad. And it got steamy enough for umpire David Shepherd to intervene.

After stumps on Sunday, England coach David Lloyd added fuel to the controversy by resurrecting an old chestnut - Muralitharan's action. The off-spinner was born with a freakish talent, a locked elbow and maneuverable wrist which make him one of the most unplayable bowlers in the world. He has, however, been officially cleared of throwing by the International Cricket Council.

But Lloyd undiplomatically played the "bad loser" card by saying: "They have a spinner with an unorthodox action and we have a spinner with an orthodox one."

Full marks to Lloyd for noticing that difference, but what he failed to add was that Ian Salisbury has bowled 60 Test overs this summer for one wicket - at a number 11. One can imagine the Australians having a whip-round to raise money for Salisbury's plane ticket this winter such is the Surrey bowler's lack of confidence.

London Calling



Mark Rivlin

SPORTS

in brief

World Cup winners get Legion of Honor

PARIS (Reuters) - France's World Cup winners received the Legion of Honor, the country's highest decoration, from President Jacques Chirac yesterday. In a ceremony at the presidential Elysee Palace, Chirac decorated coach Aime Jacquet and his 22-man squad as well as World Cup organizer and former France captain Michel Platini and leading French football officials.

Juninho returns with carbon-fibre protection

MADRID (Reuters) - Juninho will have to wear a special carbon-fibre cast on his left ankle when he returns to action for Atletico Madrid later this month. The Brazilian striker missed most of last season because of the injury and Atletico are determined to take every precaution against a recurrence of the problem. Club doctor Jose Maria Villalon said on Tuesday: "Normal shin guards aren't sufficient for the player's ankle, which was seriously injured last year, so he'll have to wear this extra protection." Juninho has been training on his own in recent weeks because of the ankle problem but he is expected to return to action in Atletico's next game, against Salamanca on September 13.

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The Iceman cometh

NHL coach Roger Neilson returns to Metulla to lead an ice hockey clinic

By LIONEL GAFFEN

Roger Neilson, a hockey nomad if ever there was one, returned to Israel for another session of the recently completed Metulla ice hockey camp which bears his name.

Neilson, 63, who is starting his second season as coach of the NHL's Philadelphia Flyers, is enjoying a 32-year career that closely resembles those colorful, crazy patterned neckties he wears behind the bench. Captain Video, as he's affectionately called, for pioneering the usage of game films and videotapes for coaching purposes, is with his 10th NHL team, and has been head coach on seven.

Neilson was brought here due to the initiative of Jeff Budd, then competition director at Metulla's Canada Center, and Marshal Starkman, a goaltending coach with the Lindsay Huskies in Ontario.

This year, there were some 60 youths, ranging from 8 to 18 involved in the camp, with 13 from overseas. Roots, the clothing manufacturer, has taken on the role of corporate sponsor, while the main backers of the program are the Canada Israel Experience Center, UJA.

The purpose of the Canada-Israel hockey camp experience has been to foster the links of diaspora teens with Israel. Hockey and sightseeing are equally important parts of the program.

Neilson donates not only his time, but his money as well. Israelis Matan Nemiroff and Amit Shoham each received a week's scholarship to Roger's hockey camp this summer.

Helping out as a referee is Ben Epstein, who was with the US ice hockey team during last year's Maccabiah Games. Epstein coaches an all-Jewish hockey team, from Ramat Yehiya in Manhattan - "one of only three in the world, (including the Israel team and a team from Bialik High School in Montreal).

Ramat Yehiya plays against teams from Harlem in order to help foster Black-Jewish relationships. They even have a joint Black-Jewish team, that has played together in a spring league for 10 games.

The NHL, together with some individual teams, have sent *Cool Shows* - the official NHL television program, to film the hockey school in action as a documentary, scheduled to be televised during the opening week of the coming season.



A WORLD OF EXPERIENCE - Roger Neilson (r) teaches his enthusiastic charges at the Canada Center in Metulla. (Lionel Gaffan)

BASEBALL

Continued from Page 20

Giants 6, Phillies 2

First baseman Rico Brogna's throwing error allowed host San Francisco to score the go-ahead run in a four-run eighth inning.

Mets 3, Dodgers 3

Mike Piazza's return to Dodger Stadium was a personal triumph, and a success for New York as well.

Piazza had run-scoring hits

with two outs in his first two at-bats to put the Mets ahead for good and New York won three-of-four in the West Coast series.

Playing at Dodger Stadium for the first time since the trades, Piazza went 3-for-4 with a walk Monday night, and was 8-for-13 with two walks in the series.

Padres 5, Expos 2
Greg Vaughn hit his 45th homer and Wally Joyner and George Arias also connected as host San Diego rediscovered its offense.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Indians 15, Athletics 6

Richie Sexson hit a two-run single in Cleveland's biggest first inning in 44 years and drove in four runs, including his fourth homer in three days, as the Indians won at the Jake.

Hours after acquiring second baseman Joey Cora from Seattle for David Bell, the Indians scored 10 runs in their first at-bat for the first time since July 6, 1954. Cora scored twice in the inning.

Oakland's Rickey Henderson became the sixth player to score 2,000 runs, joining 1940's Hank Aaron, Babe Ruth, Pete

Rose and Willie Mays.

Rangers 13, Tigers 2

Juan Gonzalez drove in seven runs with a homer, triple and two doubles as visiting Texas moved within 2½ games of idle Anaheim in the AL West with the victory.

Gonzalez upped his major league-leading RBI total to 143. He hit two-run doubles in each of the first two innings. He added his 39th homer in the fourth and tripled home another run in the sixth.

Gonzalez's seven RBIs were one shy of his career high. He had 39 RBIs in 1997.

Nomar Garciaparra moved closer to joining an exclusive home run list with his 29th homer in Boston's home victory.

With the homer, Garciaparra is one away from becoming only the fifth player in major league history to hit 30 or more homers in his first two seasons. The other four are Rudy York in 1937-38, Ron Kittle in 1983-84, Jose Canseco 1986-87 and Mark McGwire in 1987-88.

White Sox 4, Orioles 1
Albert Belle hit his 41st homer and James Baldwin pitched seven strong innings as the White Sox extended host Baltimore's losing streak to eight.

Twins 2, Devil Rays 1
Bob Tewksbury, the subject of trade rumors, pitched seven scoreless innings in Minnesota's home victory. Tewksbury (7-9) allowed five hits, including four singles.

Miami buzz is back

Disgruntled Marlins' fans come just to see McGwire

MIAMI (AP) - The scene at Pro Player Stadium was reminiscent of last year's World Series: a big crowd, a swarm of national media and an electrifying atmosphere even during batting practice.

The only thing missing: the defending champions. Mark McGwire arrived Monday for his only visit this season to Miami, and a city angry about baseball became excited again.

Five extra sections in the upper deck were opened to accommodate fans for the three-game series, and even McGwire sensed the unusual level of anticipation.

"I figured that out when someone said they were taking the tarp off in the upper deck," he said with a smile.

McGwire came to town with 55 home runs (tied with Sammy Sosa), six shy of Roger Maris' record, which is why the series between the Florida Marlins and St. Louis Cardinals has attracted about 300 media - more than for the first round of last year's playoffs.

Crowds totaling more than 100,000 were expected, an impressive figure given the resentment many Florida fans feel after the dismantling of their team. Attendance for the season in Miami is down 29 percent.

The Marlins had not one player from last year's World Series roster in the lineup when they took the field Monday, and the standings looked this way: McGwire homers - 55. Marlins victories - 47.

"Sad," McGwire said. "That's the way you have to sum it up: sad. You win a World Series, and the next year you trade everybody away. It's unfortunate for the fans of South Florida."

"The sad thing is that you look forward to opening day when you have the team out there on the field and you hand out the rings. I think they had to mail some rings to players," he said.

But the fans are finding it difficult to stay mad at a sport staging perhaps the greatest home-run race in history: McGwire and Sosa are on the verge of catching Hank Wilson, who set the National League record of 56 home runs in 1930.

As interest in the race grows, McGwire seems to become more comfortable in the spotlight. Reporters filled the Miami Dolphins' locker room for a 40-minute pre-game news conference, and McGwire relaxed at a table leaning on his enormous arms and joking about the attention he gets.

"You walk by and hear people whisper," he said. "Then you hear footsteps, and people are following you. The funny thing is when they follow you into the bathroom."

Because school has started, McGwire made the trip to Miami without his 10-year-old son, Matthew, who is a Cardinals fan.

But if McGwire breaks Maris' record, Matthew will be there. "I think if I get close, he'll have to miss some school," McGwire said with a laugh.

Joking aside, the Cardinals slugger recognizes the importance of what he and Sosa are doing. Talking about it, McGwire sometimes sounds like a fan.

"What's happening is so good for baseball," he said. "It's been exciting for America to follow it."

Even in Miami, the town whose heart Marlins' owner Wayne Huizenga broke, the excitement is back.

Vogts names Bierhoff as new Germany captain

VALLETTA (Reuters) - Germany coach Berti Vogts yesterday appointed AC Milan striker Oliver Bierhoff as his new captain as he begins a phase of post-World Cup rebuilding.

Vogts, preparing for two friendly matches in Malta this week, said he had chosen 30-year-old Bierhoff to succeed Juergen Klinsmann despite his recent public criticism of the coach.

Bierhoff had told a newspaper the communication between the coach and the team had to be improved. He also said players needed more security and signs of confidence from Vogts.

"We talked about this. Oliver was misunderstood," Vogts told a news

conference. "As far as I'm concerned there were no communication problems." Bierhoff also sought to play down his remarks. "It was just about little things to do with organization. The players often weren't informed enough during the World Cup. But the whole matter has been dealt with," he said.

Bierhoff went down in history two years ago, scoring the "golden goal" which gave Germany victory over the Czech Republic in the European championship in England.

Bierhoff was top scorer in the Italian first division last season with 27 goals and moved to Milan in the close season.

Sri Lanka set for more England Tests

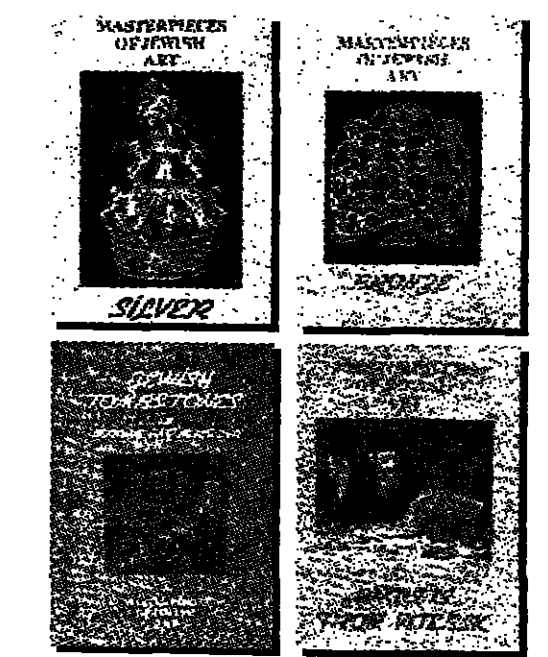
LONDON (Reuters) - Sri Lanka looked forward to the prospect of more Tests against England after Muralitharan rose above controversy over his action to inspire their historic triumph at The Oval on Sunday.

Sri Lanka surged to their first Test victory in England when they outplayed the hosts to win by 10 wickets on the final day of the one-off game in which off-spinner Muralitharan had the fifth best match haul in Test history of 16 for 220.

It was only the fourth Test played by Sri Lanka in this country since they became a Test-playing nation 17 years ago but their growing reputation, underlined over the last five days, has been rewarded by a better deal with England.

Three Tests are planned for England's 2000-2001 tour of Sri Lanka and the likelihood is that the Sri Lankans will have more than one Test here in 2002. The two teams have so far met six times, all in one-off Tests.

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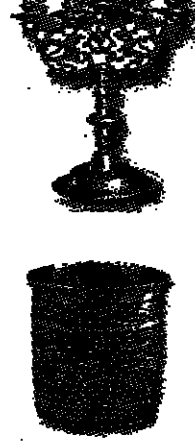
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Page 17

Sports Editors

Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

Israel still
not ready
for Austria

By OFER RONEN-ABELS

Israel's national team fly to Vienna today ahead of their Euro 2000 group 6 qualifier against Austria on Saturday night.

The national team beat Hapoel Haifa by 4-0 in a practice match at the National Stadium yesterday evening in what is their last game ahead of the clash at the Ernst Happel stadium.

Celta Vigo's Haim Revivo who aggravated his hamstring on Sunday in his club's opening match against Deportivo La Coruna was rested and received treatment from team doctor Mark Rosowsky, but he declared he will be fit for the match. Coach Shlomo Scharf will try to utilize Revivo at all costs as he is fully aware of the player's importance to the side, particularly without defensive stalwart Tal Banin.

After last night's match, Scharf voiced his concerns about the team's preparedness. "I'm happier with the result but not the way we played," he said, stating that the defense was unsatisfactory. "We have the class players who can create and score the goals, but the key is not to concede."

While mentioning the likes of Revivo, Eyal Berkovic, Alon Mizrahi and Ronen Harazi, he reiterated that the problems at the back will have to be sorted out. "We gave our opponents today too much space, something we can't afford against the Austrians."

The squad will hold a final training session this morning before flying out this afternoon.

Sosa, Wood sink Cincy

Cubs' slugger hits 55th to tie McGwire, Wood wins 13th; Gonzalez ups RBI total to 143; A's Henderson joins elite group

CHICAGO (AP) — Sammy Sosa took two curtain calls — one for himself and one for Kerry Wood.

Sosa hit his 55th homer in the third inning to tie Mark McGwire for the major league lead Monday night as the Chicago Cubs defeated the Cincinnati Reds 5-4.

Sosa moved within one homer of tying Hack Wilson's 68-year-old club and National League record when he lined an 0-1 pitch from Brett Tomko (11-11) into the left-field bleachers in the third.

After the two-run homer cut the Reds' lead to 4-2, Sosa came out of the dugout and — as he has so many times this season — acknowledged the adulation from a frenzied Wrigley Field crowd.

Wood lined a two-run homer in the fourth, his second this season, to give Chicago a 5-4 lead, but when fans chanted for him to come back onto the field, he didn't respond.

No problem. Sosa, who seconds earlier had given Wood an enormous bear hug, jumped up on the dugout step and waved to the fans again, gladly taking a bow for his young teammate.

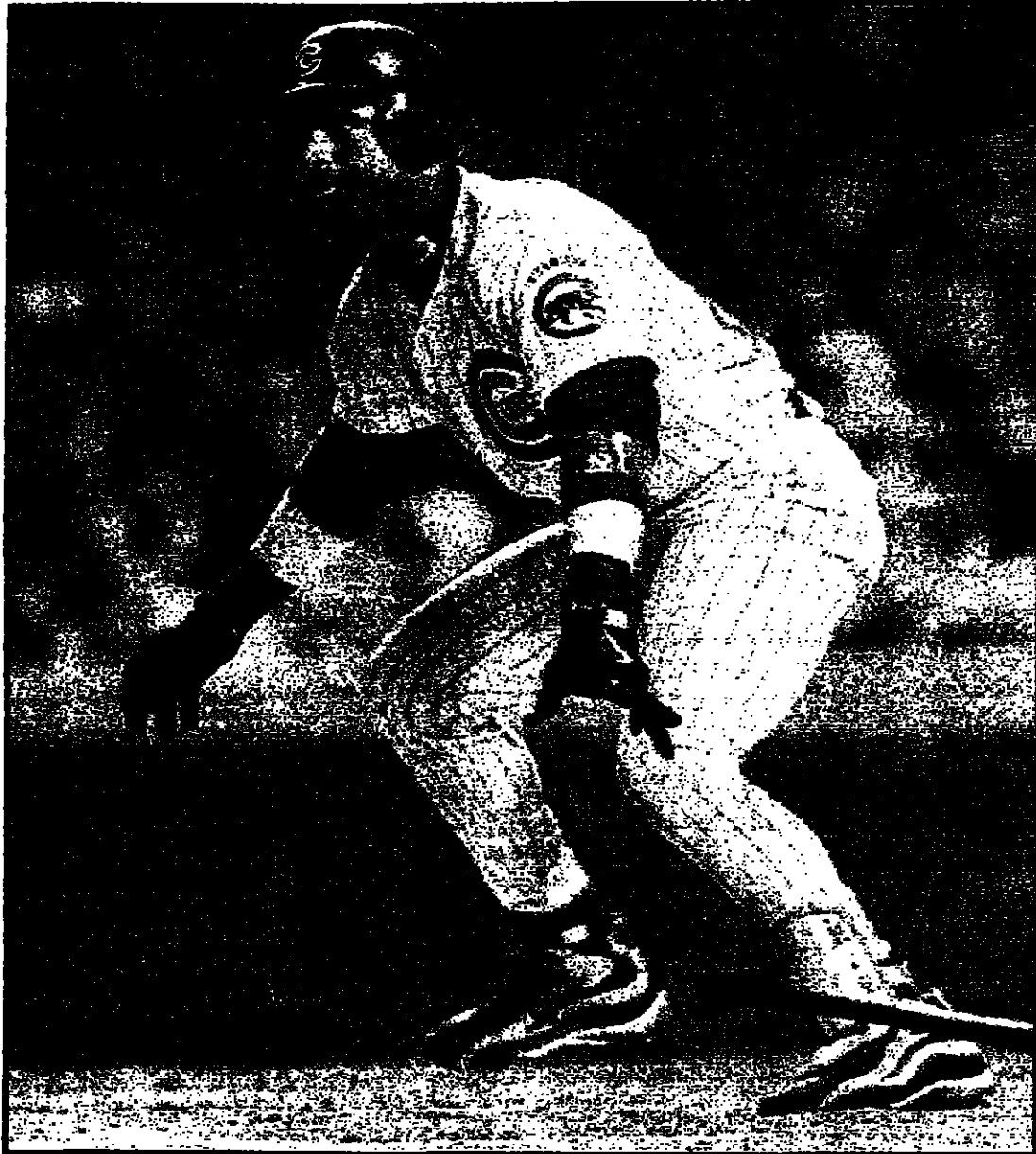
Wood (13-6) went six innings, striking out 10 and allowing four runs and six hits. He was pulled after throwing 117 pitches. Rod Beck pitched the ninth for his 40th save.

Cardinals 5, Marlins 3. Mark McGwire went 0-for-3 and lost his lead in the home-run race, but teammate Brian Jordan homered to help St. Louis to a road triumph.

McGwire struck out twice, walked twice and fouled out. He fell to 0-for-9 lifetime against Marlins starter Kirt Ojala (1-4).

McGwire worked the count to 3-2 on each of his five trips to the plate, with the crowd of 36,584 rooting for the Cardinals slugger. They booed the pitcher when he failed to throw a strike and jeered umpire Angel Hernandez when he called a strike.

Against Ojala, McGwire fouled out with two on in the first, walked in the third and struck out



NO LETUP — Chicago Cubs' Sammy Sosa watches his 55th home run sail into the Wrigley Field bleachers.

swinging at an 86-mph fastball in the fifth.

Against Brian Edmonson, McGwire took a called third strike in the seventh.

Astros 4, Braves 3. Houston scored three in the top of the ninth on six singles and rallied to win for the 41st time this

season.

Houston, held to just two hits in the first eight innings by John Smoltz (13-3), got five straight singles to start the ninth.

Trailing 3-1, Craig Biggio, Bill Spiers and Derek Bell singled to load the bases and chase Smoltz, who had won 8 straight decisions

and hadn't lost since June 26.

Kerry Ligtenberg replaced Smoltz and gave up RBI singles to Jeff Bagwell and Moises Alou. With two outs, Brad Ausmus lined a single to right to score Bell.

See BASEBALL, Page 18

Graf advances
at US Open

Bjorkman outduels Pioline

NEW YORK (Reuters) — Five-time US Open champion Steffi Graf returned to the National Tennis Center for the first time in two years and came away with a hard-fought 6-2 3-6 6-1 victory over unseeded American Corina Morariu in yesterday's opening center court match.

Graf, battling back from knee surgery, was alternately dominant and wobbly but ultimately relieved to advance to the second round after a one hour, 32-minute test against the 20-year-old Morariu under bright sunshine at the Arthur Ashe Stadium.

On the men's side, 12th seed Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden outlasted 1993 Open runner-up Cedric Pioline of France 6-2 4-6 6-1 6-7.

On Monday, a semifinalist here last year, prevailed on his fourth match point when he sent a crosscourt forehand winner past Wimbledon semifinalist Pioline.

Australian power server Mark Philippoussis had a much easier day, as he fired 21 aces across the fast, re-surfaced Tennis Center hardcourt in seizing a 7-5 6-4 6-3 victory over Christian Ruud of Norway.

Other early women's winners yesterday included US veteran Lori McNeil, a 4-6 6-4 6-1 winner against compatriot Samantha Reeves, and Lisa Raymond, who dispatched Maria Antonia Sanchez Lorenzo of Spain 6-3 6-3.

Italy's Laura Golarsa and South African Joannette Kruger were also among those advancing to the second round.

The 29-year-old Graf, whose only Grand Slam appearance this year ended with a third-round defeat at Wimbledon, looked her old invincible self in the first set pushing the young American all over the court with her punishing forehand.

But Morariu, an up-and-comer

who was recently named to the US Fed Cup team, showed surprising confidence and sizzling groundstrokes of her own to level the match in the second set.

Hitting the same hard, flat first serve and one-handed backhand as the German ace, Morariu, wearing chic wraparound sunglasses, broke Graf at love in the sixth game to lead 4-2.

She then survived a break point in the next game before closing out the set on serve with a backhand winner.

That seemed to serve as a wake-up call for Graf, who stormed out to a 3-0 lead in the last set and sailed on to clinch her first Open match win since taking her fifth Open crown in 1996.

Graf, who also won the 1995 championship, extended her match-winning streak at the National Tennis Center to 15. On Monday, the Andre Agassi travelling road show hit the Open and the Las Vegas showman did not disappoint his loyal fans.

The scruffy eighth seed, sporting more hair on his chin than his head these days, shook off a mild case of opening night jitters to roll past 20-year-old Frenchman Sebastien Grosjean 6-4 6-1 6-4 in one hour and 37 minutes under the lights at Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Next up for Agassi is another Frenchman, Guillaume Raoux, who should be at something of a disadvantage after he needed a fifth-set tie-break to get past compatriot Nicolas Escude.

Two-time champion Monica Seles, dressed in basic black evening wear, tennis-style, the Agassi's warmup act and she was kept on stage longer than expected.

The former world No. 1, seeded sixth this year, had her hands full with first-round opponent Florencia Labat of Argentina before advancing 7-6 6-2 in just under an hour and a half.

Smashnova ousted

Israel's Anna Smashnova was beaten in the first round of the US Open 6-4, 3-6, 6-2 by Silvia Farina of Italy yesterday.

Israeli hopes in New York now rest with Eyal Efrich, who takes on Michael Chang today.

On Monday, Noam Behr took the first set off Bjorkman's Gustavo Kuerten before going down 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4.

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Half a century
of sport now
in book form

By JOEL GORDIN

Mickey Berkowitz, Tal Brody, Tanhum Cohen-Minz, Eitan Orbach and Esther Roth were among the sports icons who attended the yesterday's launch of the album *Sport 50* a history of local sport since 1948.

The editors, veteran sports journalists and promoters, Shaia Porat and Moshe Lerer, claim that *Sport 50* is the most comprehensive book ever published about Israeli sport. They have written 882 articles to accompany the 1,677 actual newspaper clippings and 756 photographs in the 224 pages.

The album also features a comprehensive list of statistics, including athletics and swimming records and Olympic performances through the years.

There is also an index of the 13,458 names of sports people who are mentioned.

Porat said the album is a "tribute to the sports people who, to borrow from Tal Brody's famous phrase, put our country on the sporting map."

Praising the authors' efforts, Brody quipped: "Israeli sport is now not only on the map, it is also in a fine book."

The authors dedicated the album to the 11 Israeli athletes killed by terrorists at the 1972 Munich Olympics. It is published by Alfa Tikshoret and costs NIS128.

Lucic finds refuge on court

NEW YORK (Reuters) — Croatian teenager Mirjana Lucic, who says she fled her home last month to get away from an abusive father, found refuge from her personal problems on the court at the US Open on Monday.

"I tried to forget about everything that is going on, all the bad things, and just focus on my tennis, and that is what I did well today," Lucic said after slugging an ace on match point for a 6-3 6-2 first-round win over Dutchwoman Kristie Boogert under the lights at Flushing Meadow.

Last week, the 16-year-old Lucic charged in a story published in a Croatian newspaper that her father and lifelong coach Marinko had physically and mentally terrorized her for the past 10 years.

Her father denied the charges in a letter published last week in a Zagreb newspaper.

The situation became unbearable, according to Lucic, at Wimbledon when her father struck her and her mother Anjelka during a dispute.

Lucic, her mother, two sisters and two younger brothers left her father for the US, where they have been staying since.

"There were lot of things going on for all these years."

Lucic has asked her agent to look into legal means of keeping her father away from her in a situation reminiscent of the drastic steps Mary Pierce took a few years ago to bar her father, Jim, from attending tournaments she was playing in.

After her victory, Lucic said: "I did everything to protect myself and my family and I feel very safe." Asked what she expected from the WTA, she said: "I have protection. I took all the steps and I am on the tennis court."

That is what I always wanted to do," Lucic found all the support she wanted from her mother and siblings at court-side in the cozy grandstand setting.

"My family was there with me today and almost after every point I would look at them and all I would get from them would be this, come on, and that is great."

"That is the only thing that players should get from their parents," said the 53rd-ranked Lucic, who reached the third round in her US Open debut last year.

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ISRAEL
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Haifa 32/25
Tel Aviv 33/24
Jerusalem 33/19
Dead Sea 32/26
Beersheva 33/21
Eilat 41/29

Israel: Plenty of sunshine and hot today. Highs 31-34 and clear tonight. Lows 18-23.

EUROPE WEATHER TODAY

City	Today High/Low	Thursday High/Low	Friday High/Low	Saturday High/Low
Ald	30/16	30/16	30/16	30/16
Beersheva	30/16	30/16	30/16	30/16
Dead Sea	30/16	30/16	30/16	30/16
Haifa	30/16	30/16	30/16	30/16
Jerusalem	30/16	30/16	30/16	30/16
Katzen	30/16	30/16	30/16	30/16
Netanya	30/16	30/16	30/16	30/16
Tel Aviv	30/16	30/16	30/16	30/16
Tiberias	30/16	30/16	30/16	30/16

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

ISRAEL CITIES

City	Today High/Low	Thursday High/Low	Friday High/Low	Saturday High/Low
Ald	30/16	30/16	30/16	30/16
Beersheva	30/16	30/16	30/16	30/16
Dead Sea	30/16	30/16	30/16	30/16
Haifa	30/16	30/16	30/16	30/16
Jerusalem	30/16	30/16	30/16	30/16
Katzen	30/16	30/16	30/16	30/16
Netanya	30/16	30/16	30/16	30/16
Tel Aviv	30/16	30/16	30/16	30/16
Tiberias	30/16	30/16	30/16	30/16

Weather (W): sunny, partly cloudy, cloudy, showers, thunderstorms, rain, snow, sleet, fog, hail.

INTERNATIONAL CITIES

City	Today High/Low	Thursday High/Low	Friday High/Low	Saturday High/Low
Amsterdam	22/11	22/11	22/11	22/11
Beijing	21/7	21/7	21/7	21/7
Berlin	21/7	21/7	21/7	21/7
Brussels	21/7	21/7	21/7	21/7
Calcutta	21/7	21/7	21/7	21/7
Chicago	21/7	21/7	21/7	21/7
Frankfurt	21/7	21/7	21/7	21/7
Hong Kong	21/7	21/7	21/7	21/7
Jaipur	21/7	21/7	21/7	21/7
London	21/7	21/7	21/7	21/7
Los Angeles	21/7	21/7	21/7	21/7
Moscow	21/7	21/7	21/7	21/7
New York	21/7	21/7	21/7	21/7
Paris	21/7	21/7	21/7	21/7
Prague	21/7	21/7	21/7	21/7
Rio de Janeiro	21/7	21/7	21/7	21/7
Rome	21/7	21/7	21/7	21/7
Sydney	21/7	21/7	21/7	21/7
Tokyo	21/7	21/7	21/7	21/7
Toronto	21/7	21/7	21/7	21/7
Vienna	21/7	21/7	21/7	21/7
Washington	21/7	21/7	21/7	21/7
Zurich	21/7	21/7	21/7	21/7

NORTH AMERICA WEATHER TODAY

City	Today High/Low	Thursday High/Low	Friday High/Low	Saturday High/Low
Anchorage	21/7	21/7	21/7	21/7
Baltimore	21/7	21/7	21/7	21/7
Boston	21/7	21/7	21/7	21/7
Buffalo	21/7	21/7	21/7	21/7
Calgary	21/7	21/7	21/7	21/7
Chicago	21/7	21/7	21/7	21/7
Denver	21/7	21/7	21/7	21/7
Detroit	21/7	21/7	21/7	21/7
Houston	21/7	21/7	21/7	21/7
Los Angeles	21/7	21/7	21/7	21/7
London	21/7	21/7	21/7	21/7
Manila	21/7	21/7	21/7	21/7
Medan	21/7	21/7	21/7	21/7
Montreal	21/7	21/7	21/7	21/7
Mumbai	21/7	21/7	21/7	21/7
New York	21/7	21/7	21/7	21/7
Osaka	21/7	21/7	21/7	21/7
Paris	21/7	21/7	21/7	21/7
Perth	21/7	21/7	21/7	21/7
Port of Spain	21/7	21/7	21/7	21/7
Rangoon	21/7	21/7	21/7	21/7
San Francisco	21/7	21/7	21/7	21/7
Singapore	21/7	21/7	21/7	21/7
Sydney	21/7	21/7	21/7	21/7
Taipei	21/7	21/7	21/7	21/7
Tokyo	21/7	21/7	21/7	21/7
Ulaanbaatar	21/7	21/7	21/7	21/7
Yokohama	21/7	21/7	21/7	21/7

סוכן מן האל